Meghan Fernandes & Lydia Gluck
creators of Pom Pom

KNIT HOW

learn to knit with
simple stitches, patterns, and tips

REVISED AND UPDATED EDITION

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abrams, new york

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Find *Knit How* tutorials on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@PomPomPublishing and knit along with us!

INTRODUCTION

Hello, new knitter, welcome! We are so pleased you chose this book, or perhaps had someone very clever choose it for you. However you came to be reading this introduction, we are happy you are here, and we can't wait for you to get started on your knitting journey. Not only is knitting a fun hobby and a way to make your own clothes and accessories, it's also an impressive skill. And we can't wait to help you learn that skill.

And who are we? We are Meghan and Lydia, and we are the founders of Pom Pom. *Pom Pom Quarterly* was a knitting magazine that hosted all the joys of knitting (and crochet) on its pages for many years. Now that we no longer make the magazine, we have more time to devote to books like this one. We originally published this book in 2017, and in the years since we often wanted to make little tweaks to the original, and we've been lucky enough to do just that here. This version of *Knit How* (2.0) has a few extra patterns, new photography, and a fresh look.

Over the years, we have taught many new knitters (thousands have learned using this very book) and helped many a newbie to fix a mistake or choose a yarn for a project. We remember when we were new knitters too—neither of us was one of those lucky kiddos who learned from their mom or grandmother at a young age—so we hope that we can be of help to you now. We'll be here, holding your hand and looking over your shoulder as you make those first few shaky stitches. And we'll be here as you grow in confidence and take on more exciting challenges with each new project.

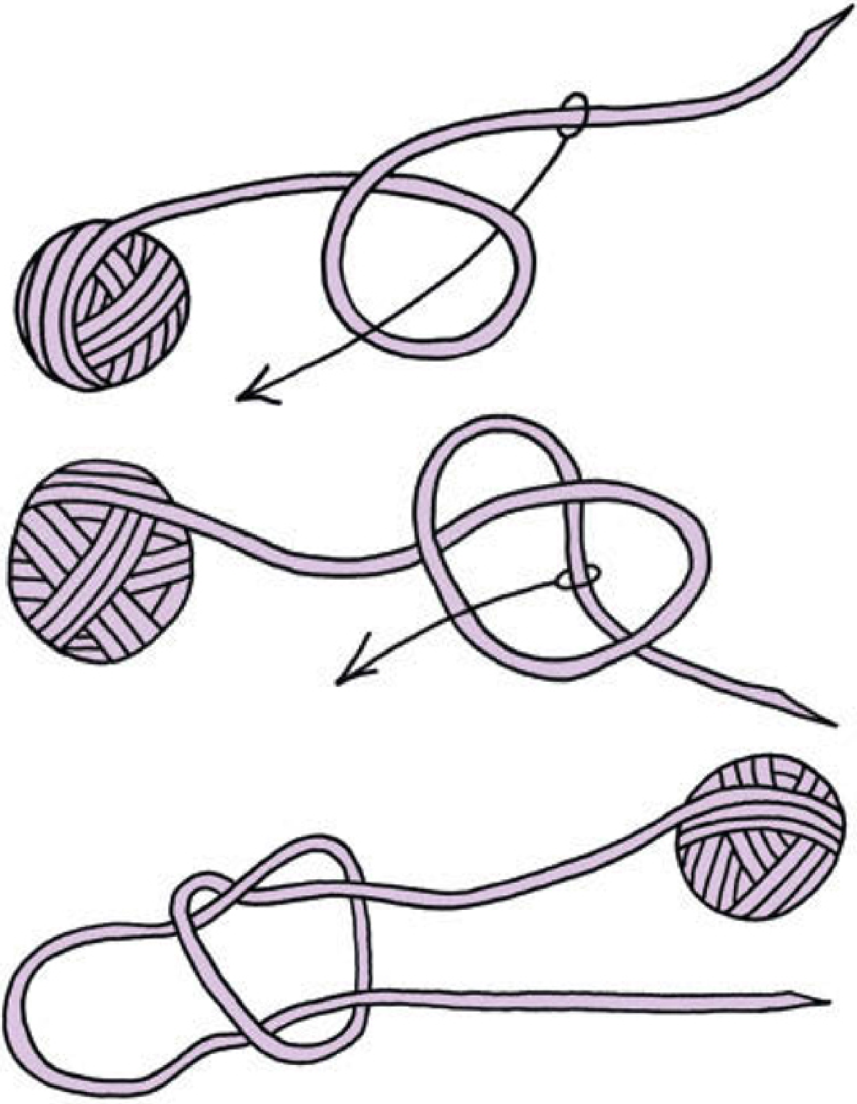
Through our shared love of making (and exuberant color) we became friends and have made many other friends over our years of crafting and creating, and we just know you will find knitting pals too. You'll find that knitters are some of the most approachable, friendly, talented, and resourceful people in the world. And guess what? Now you're one of them.

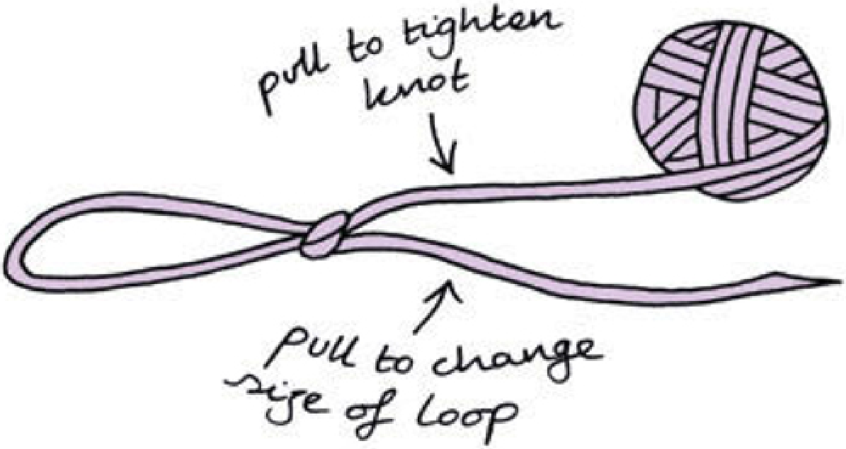
Knitting can be meditative, and it can be challenging. You can knit alone or in groups, on the train, in a bar; anywhere you can sit, you can knit. And if you're out and about, you might well meet another knitter. We really believe in craft as a builder of communities, a connection to the past, and a hope for the future, as well as a way to engage your mind through a physical process.

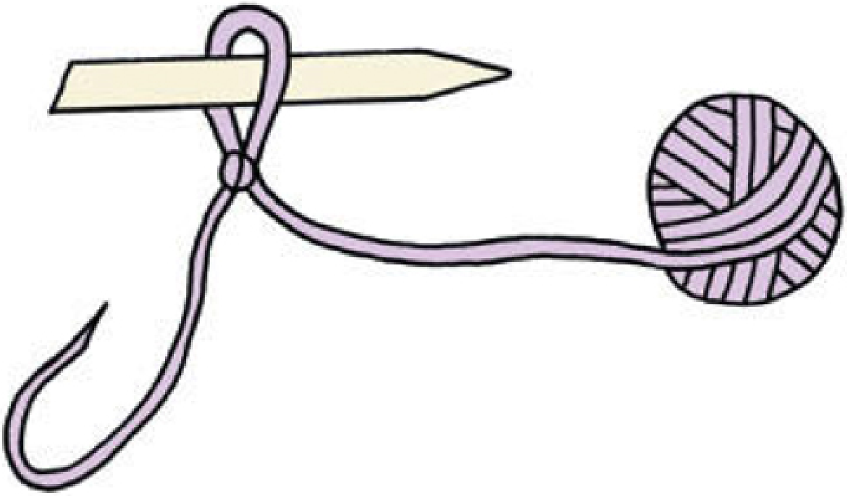
Nothing feels better than sending a new knitter off on their own magical creative journey, so thanks for letting us be a part of yours.

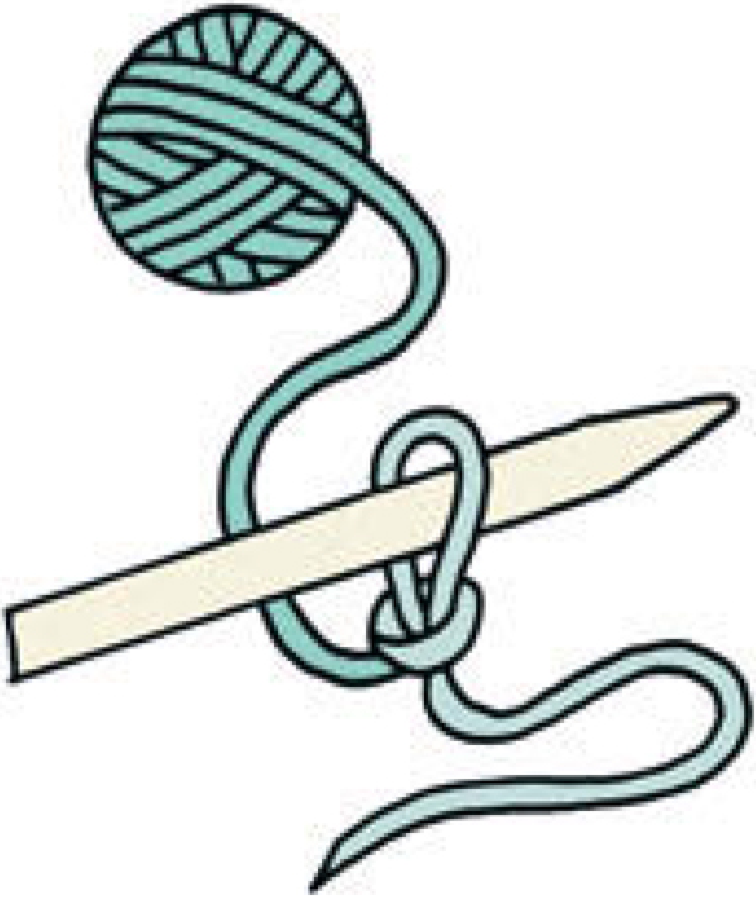
Now let's get knitting!

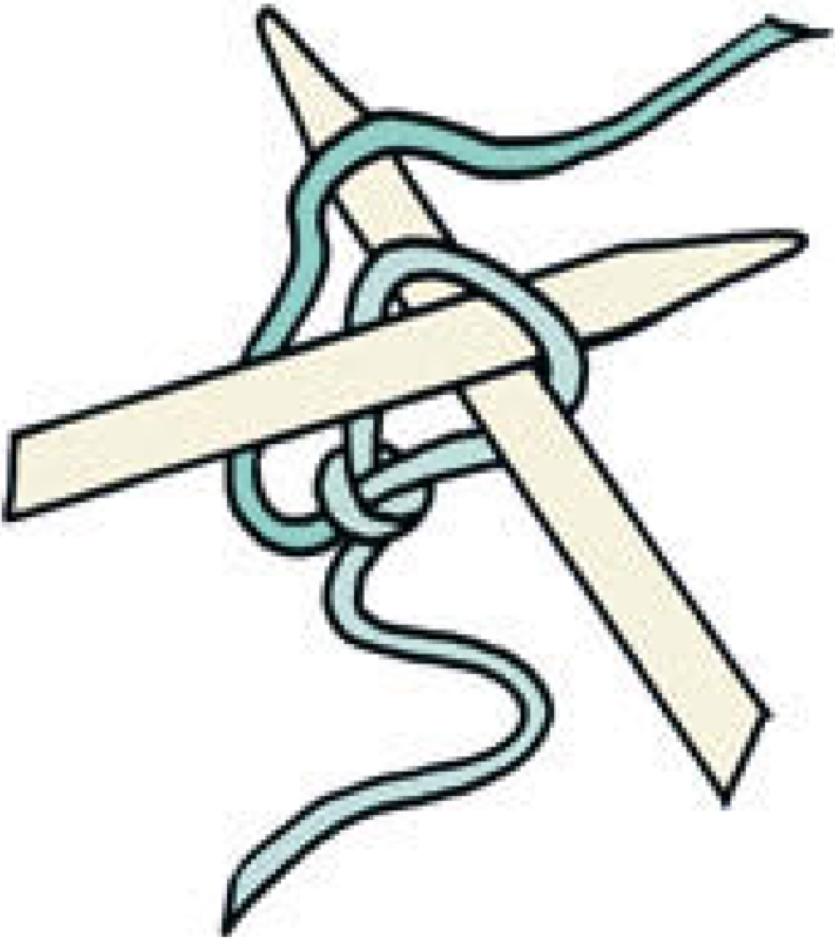
xoxo
Meghan & Lydia

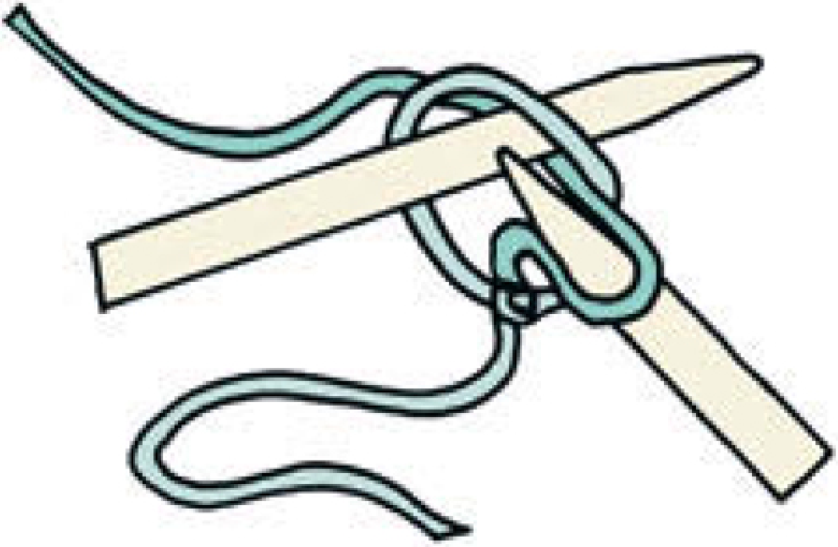


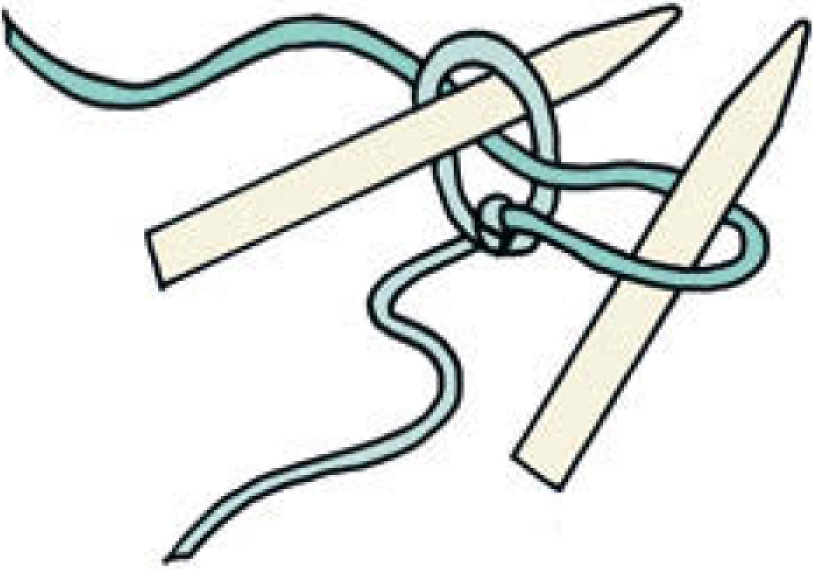

pull to tighten knot
pull to change size of loop

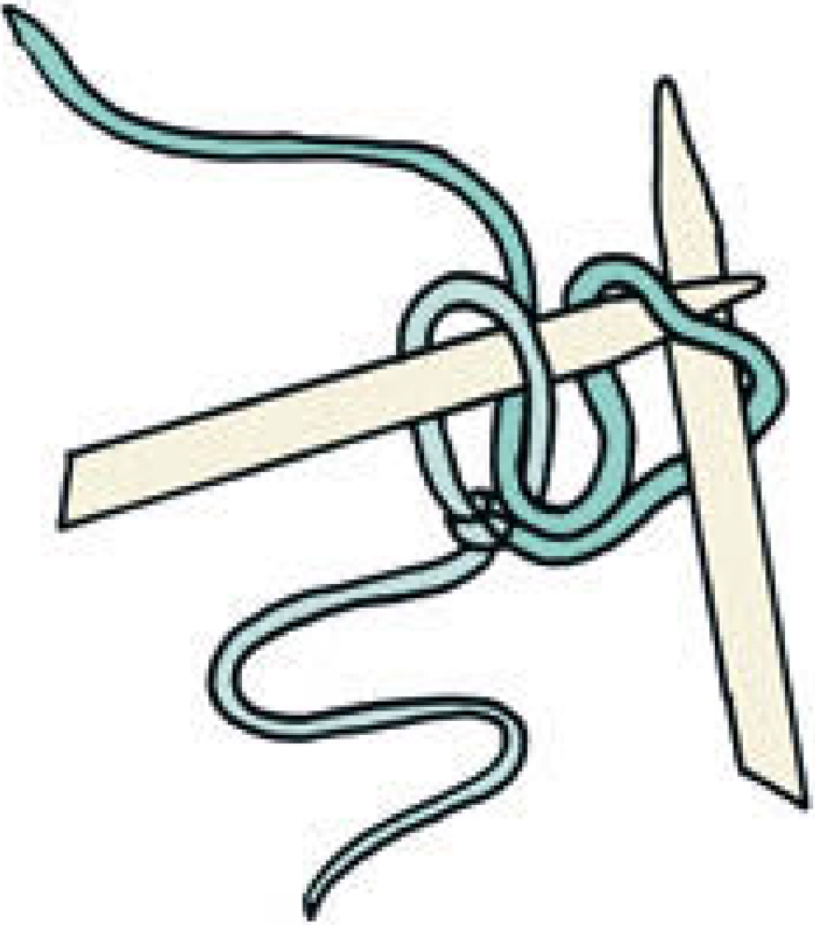


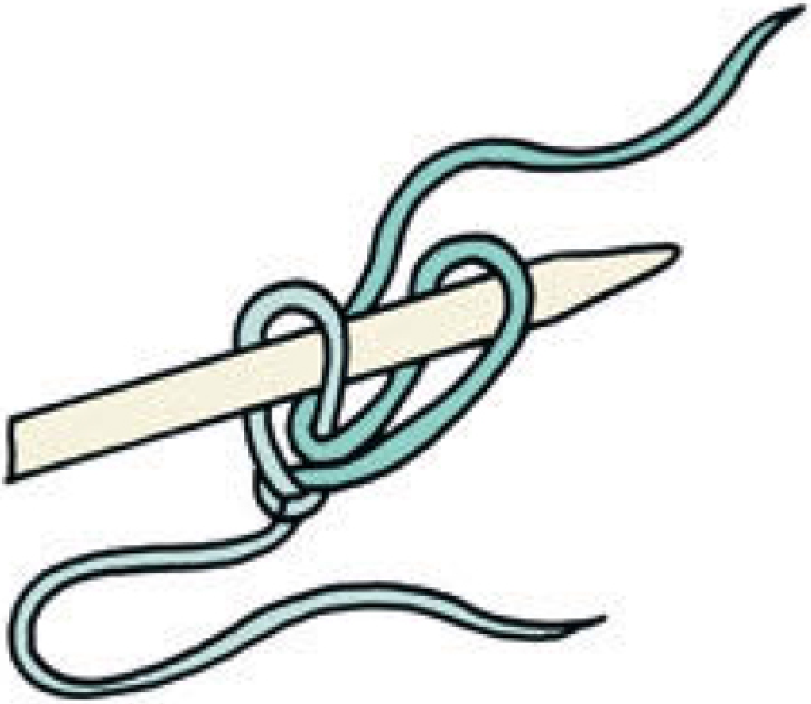


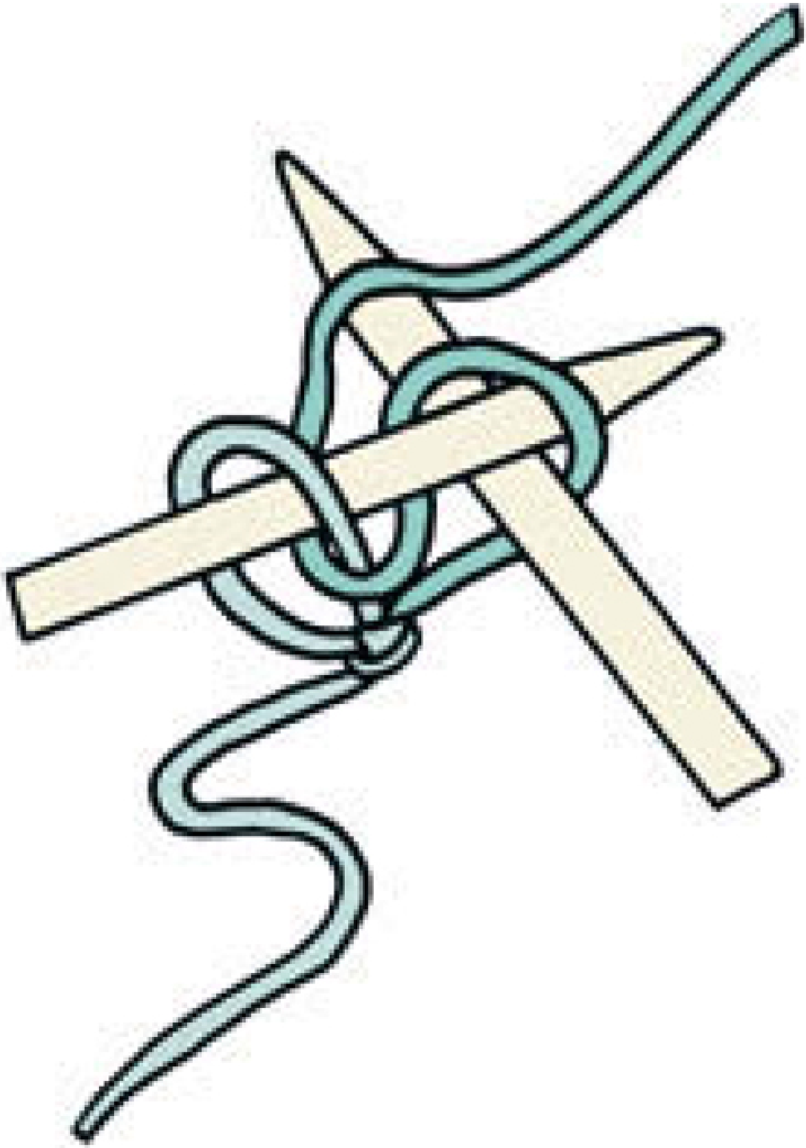


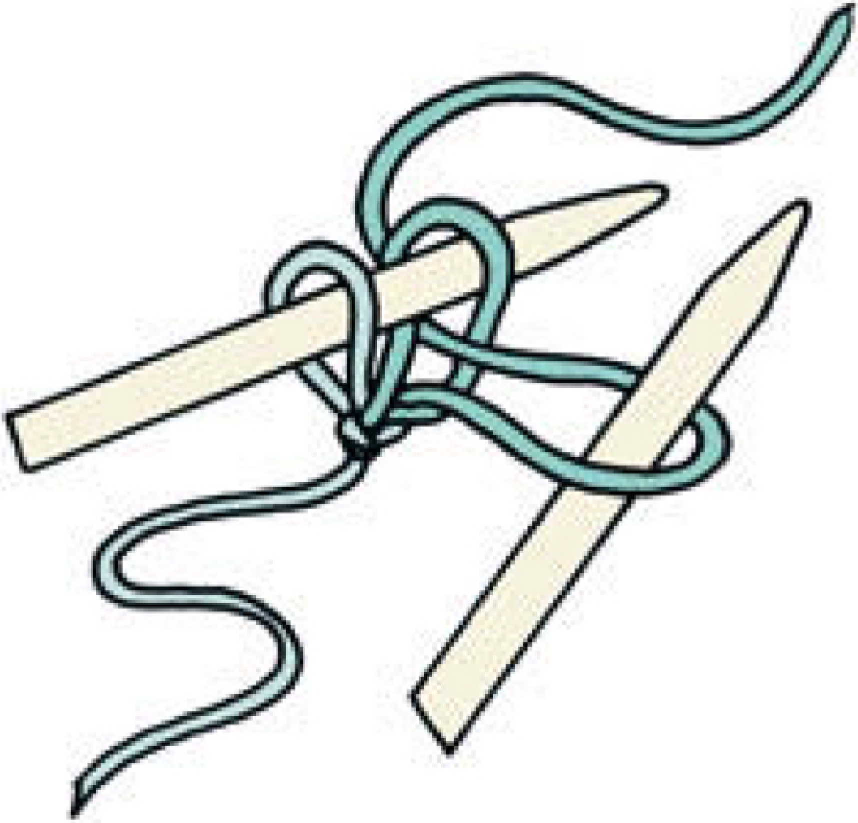


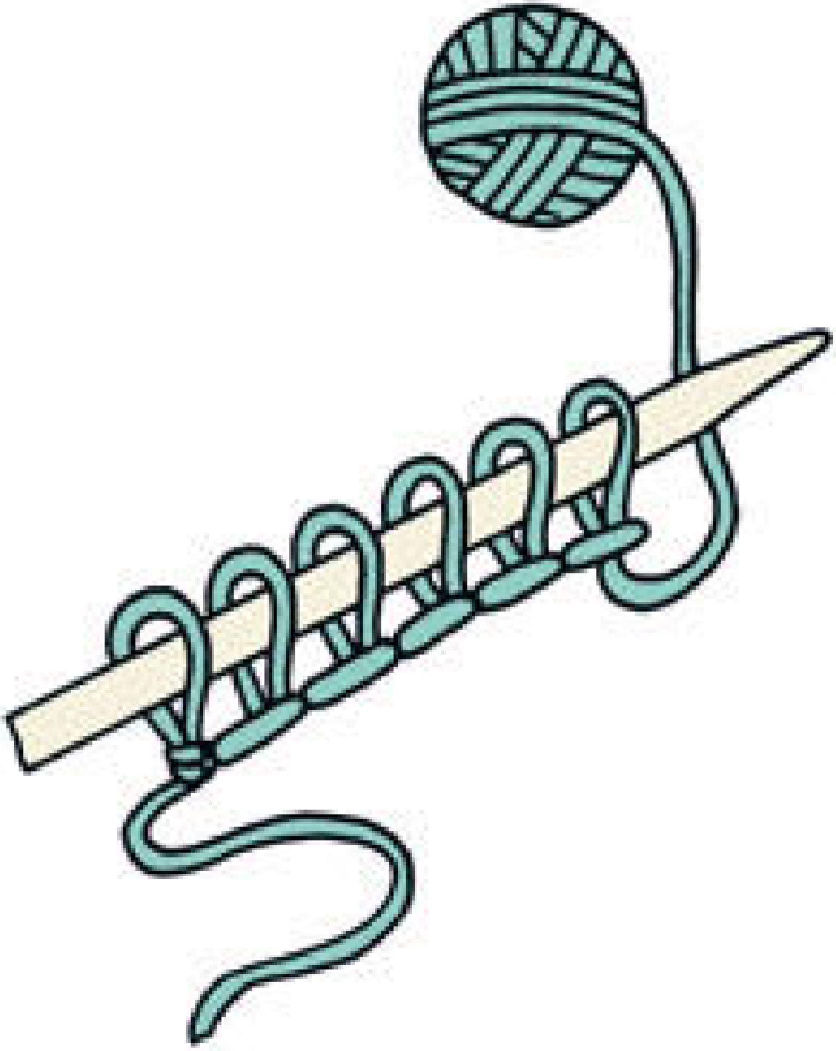


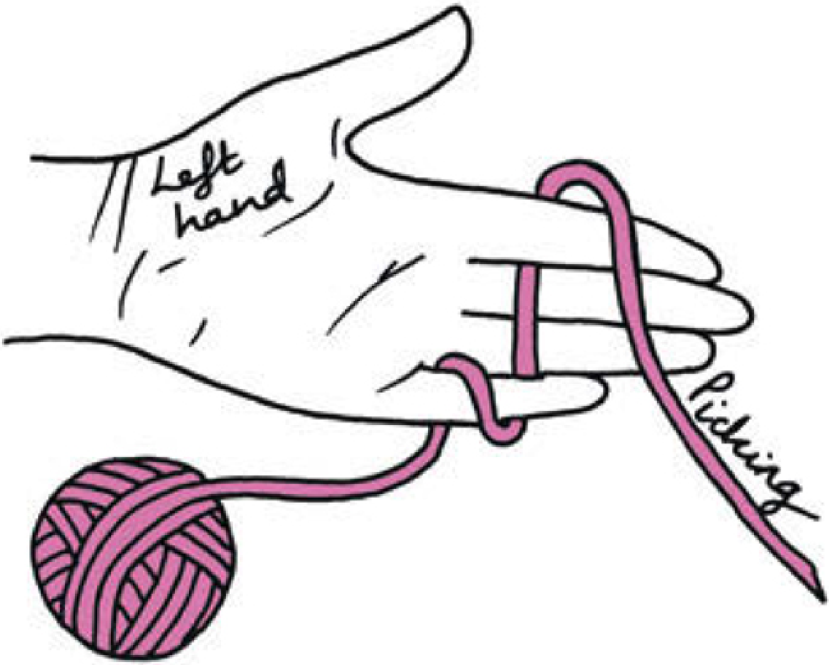


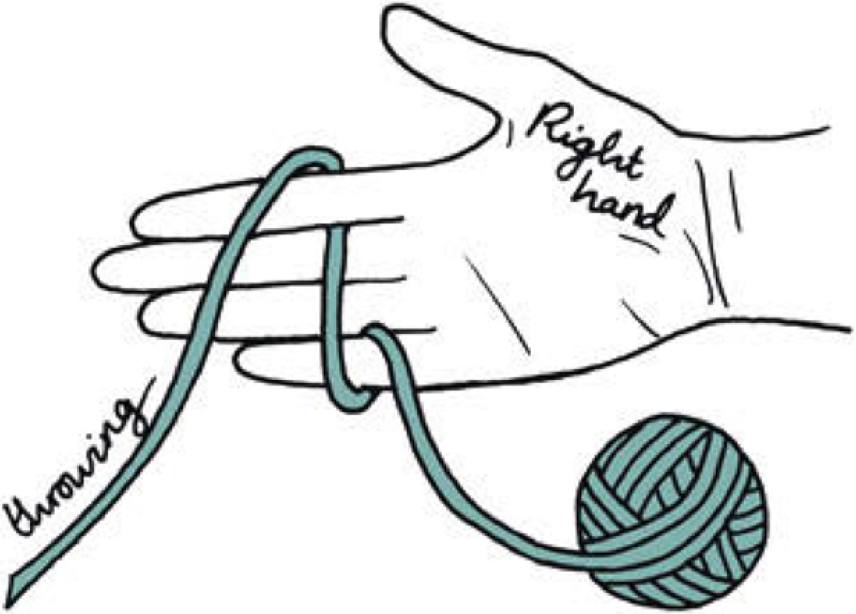


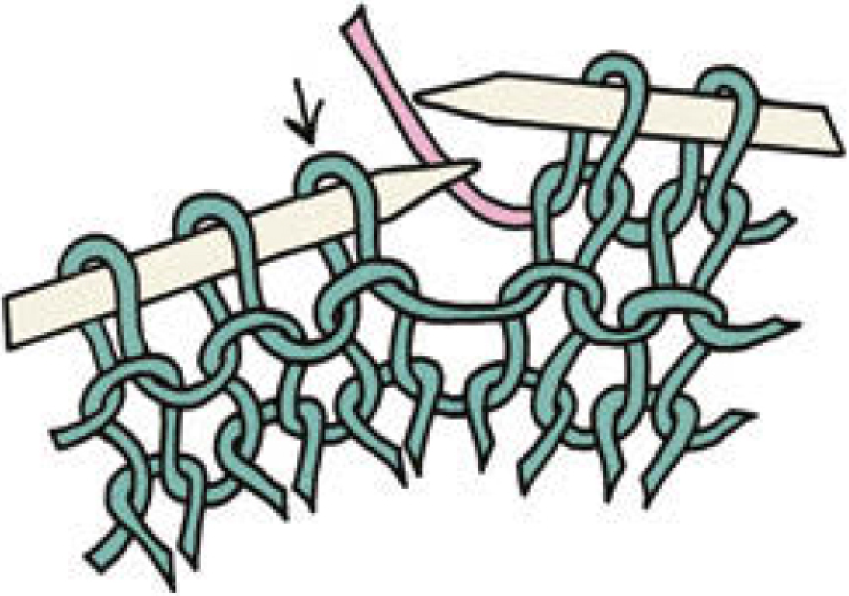


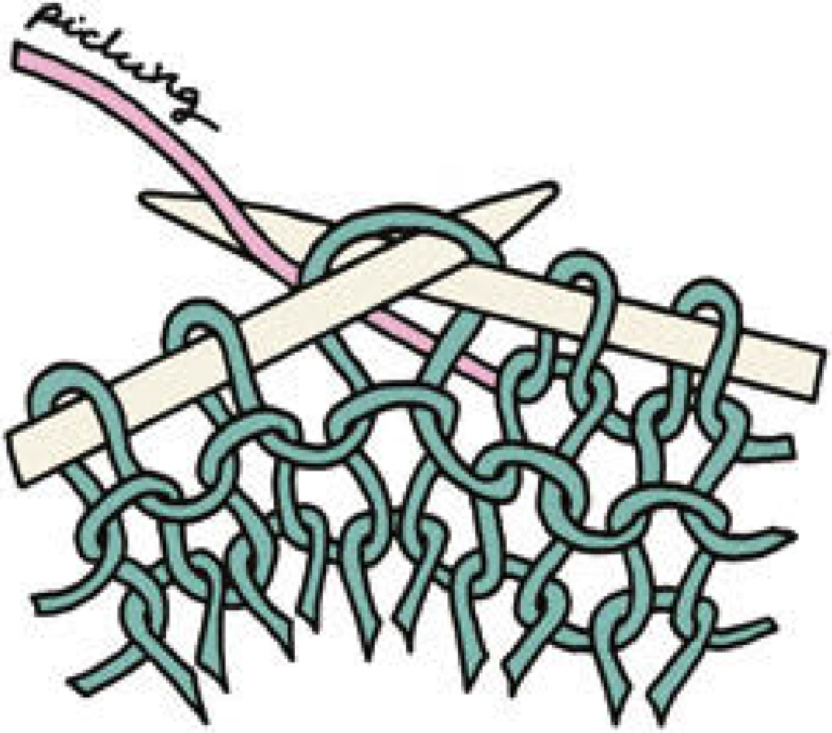





Left hand
Picking


Right hand
throwing

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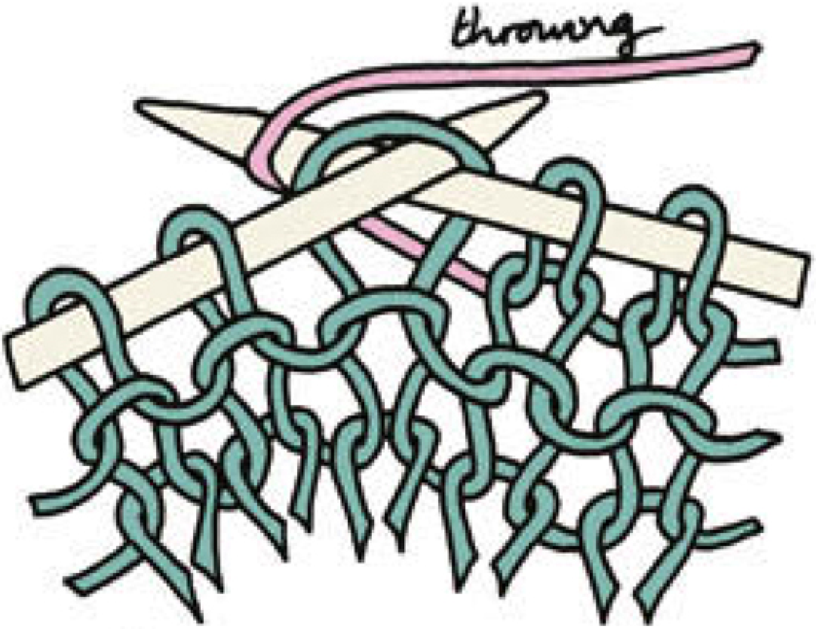
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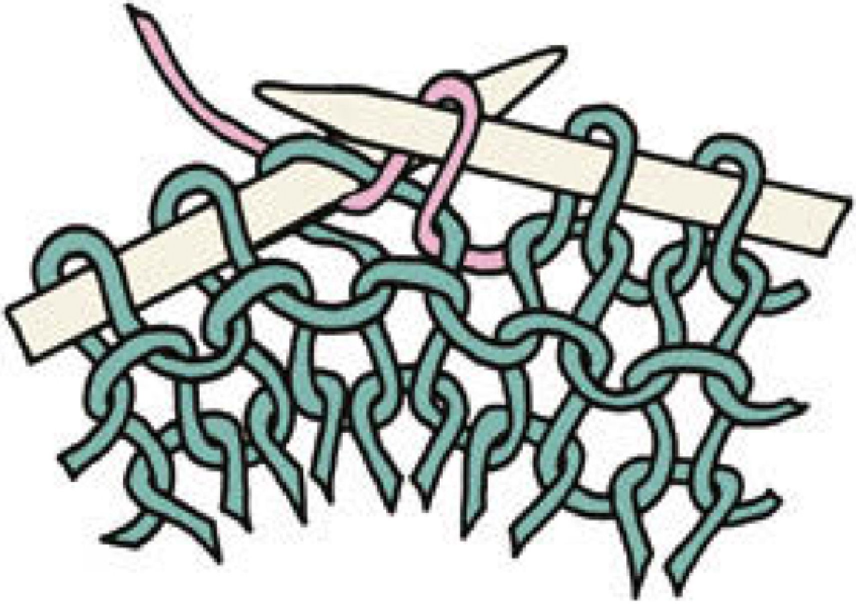

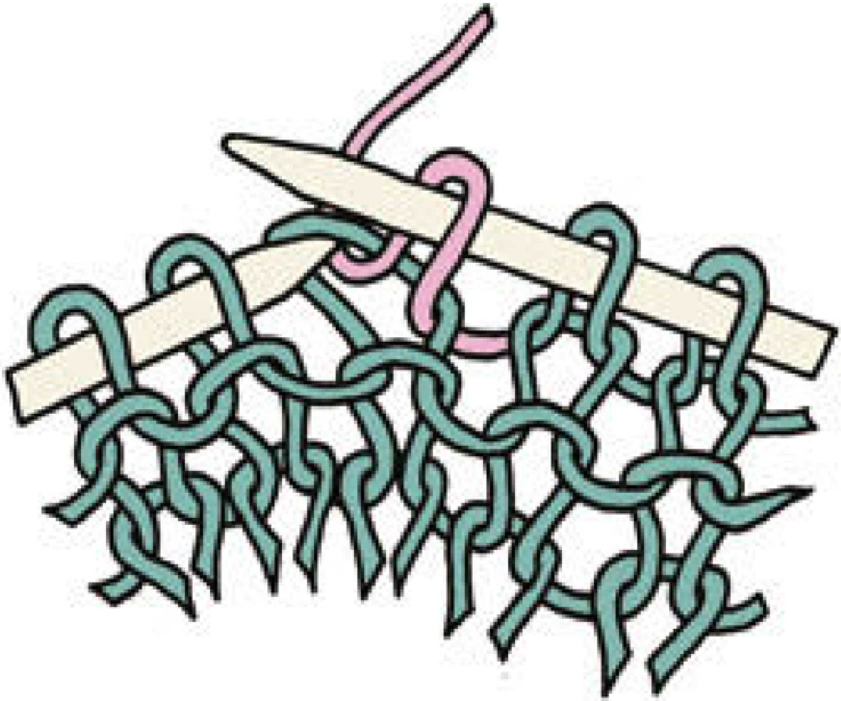

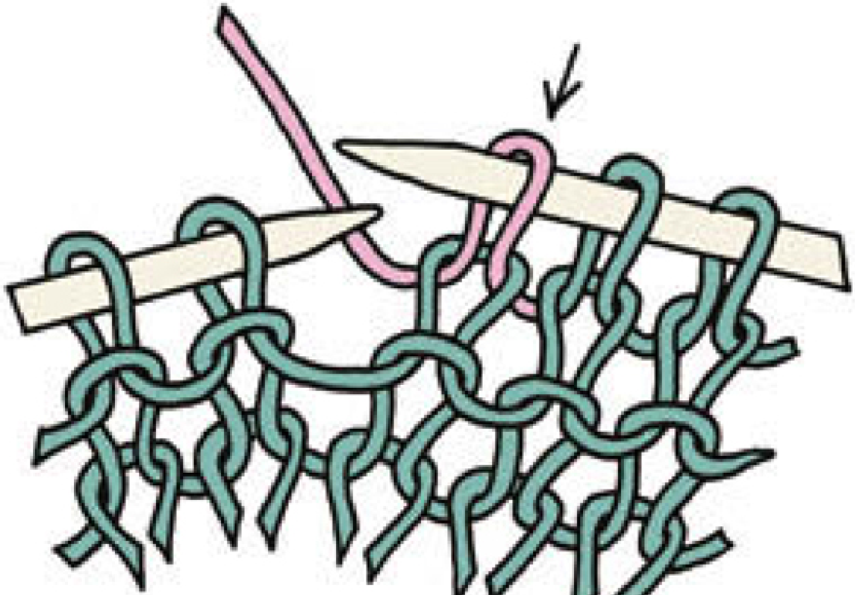

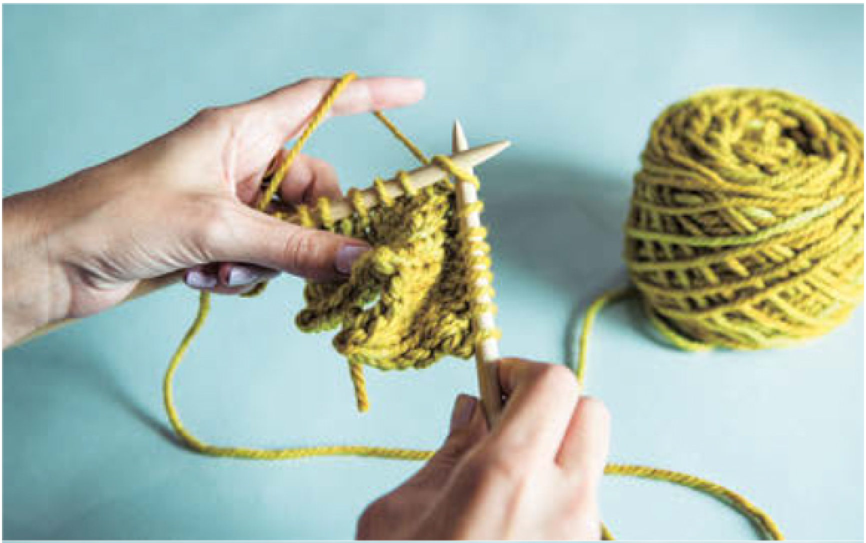

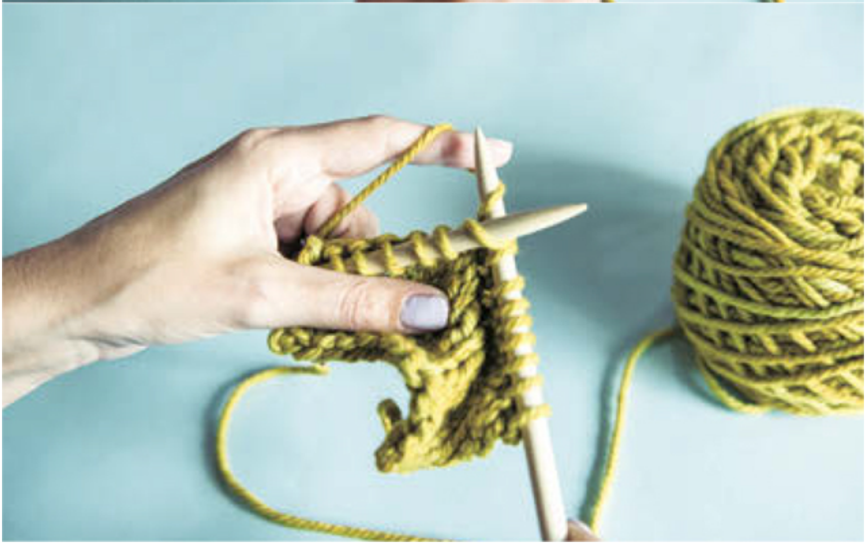

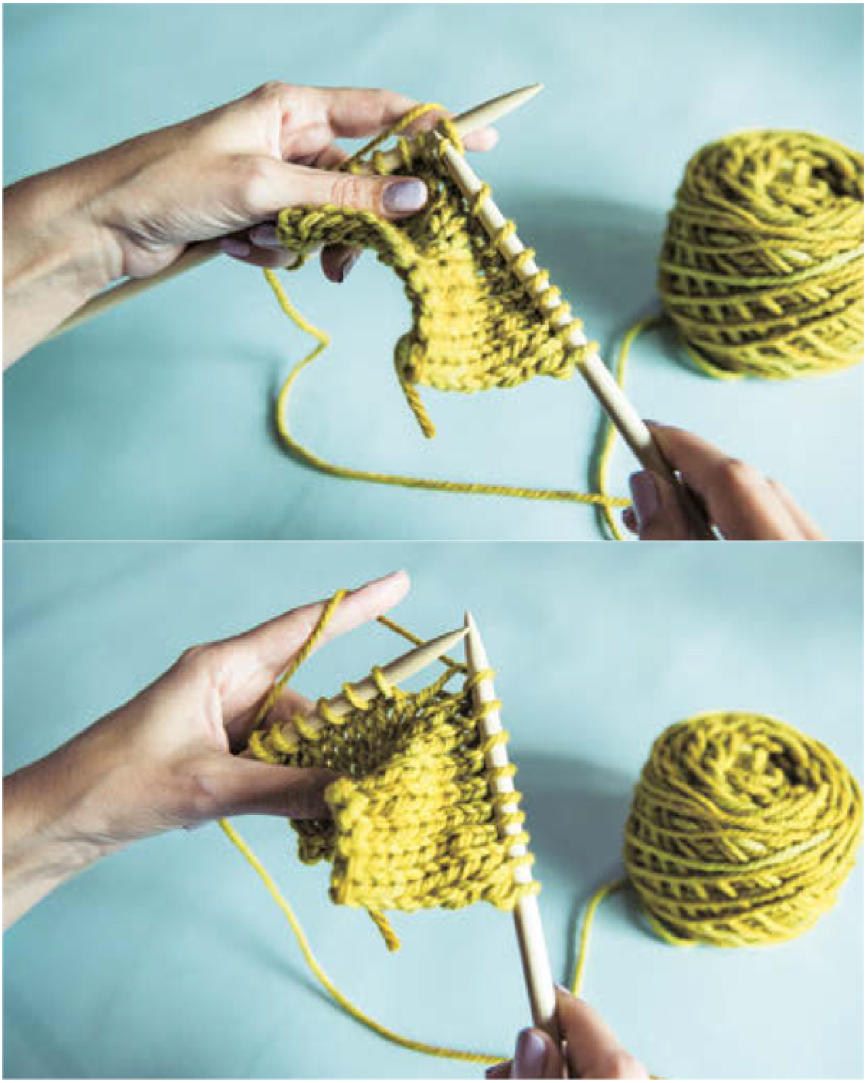

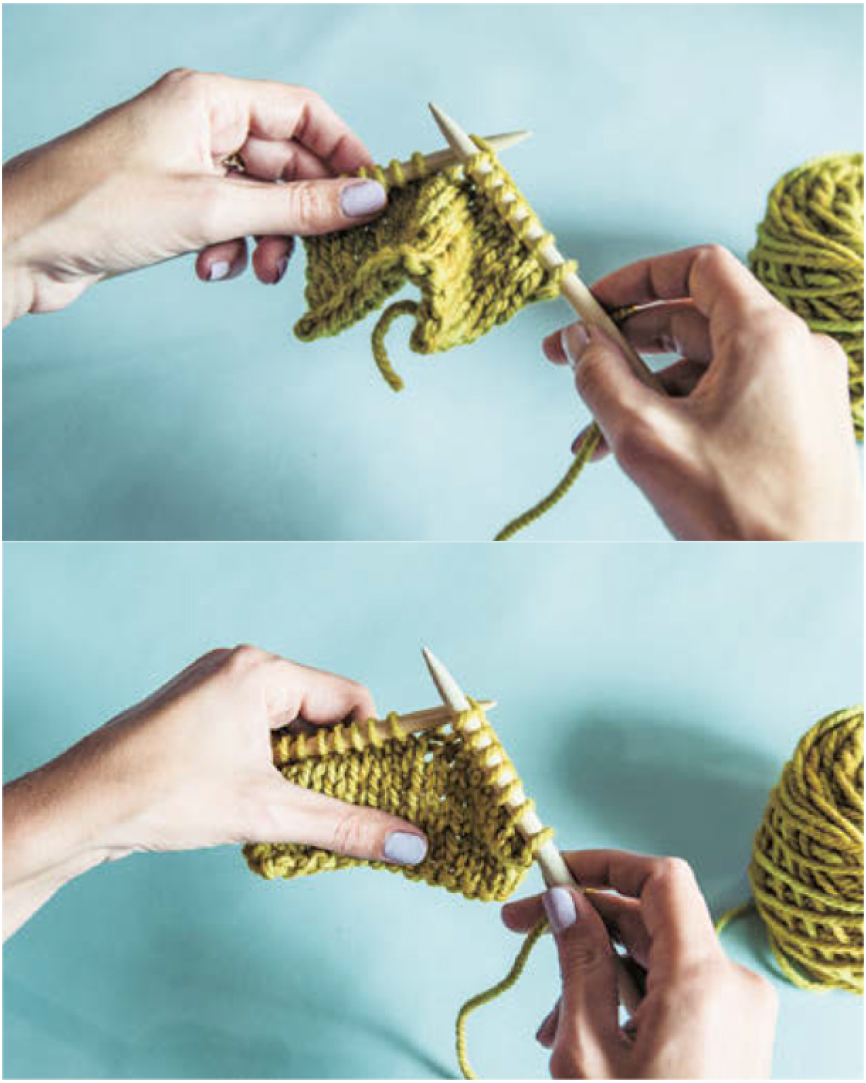

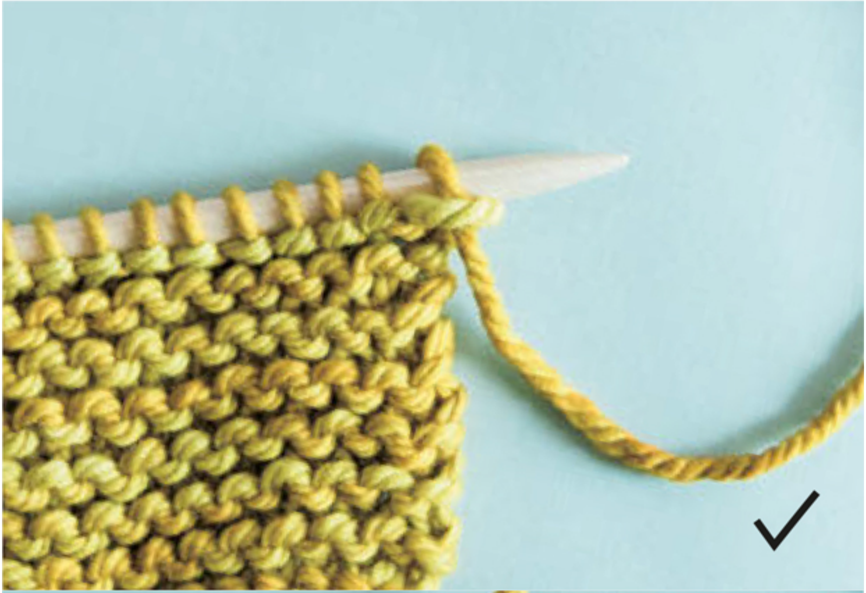
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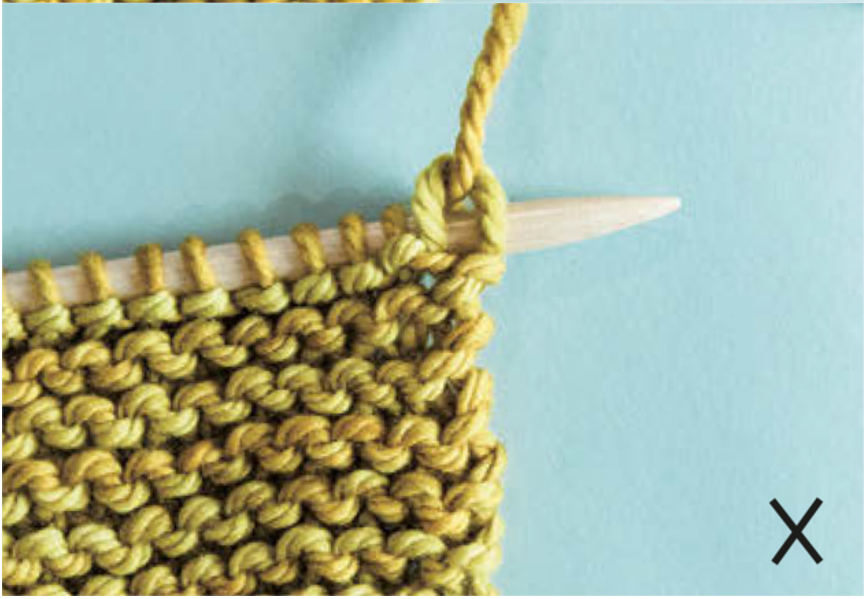
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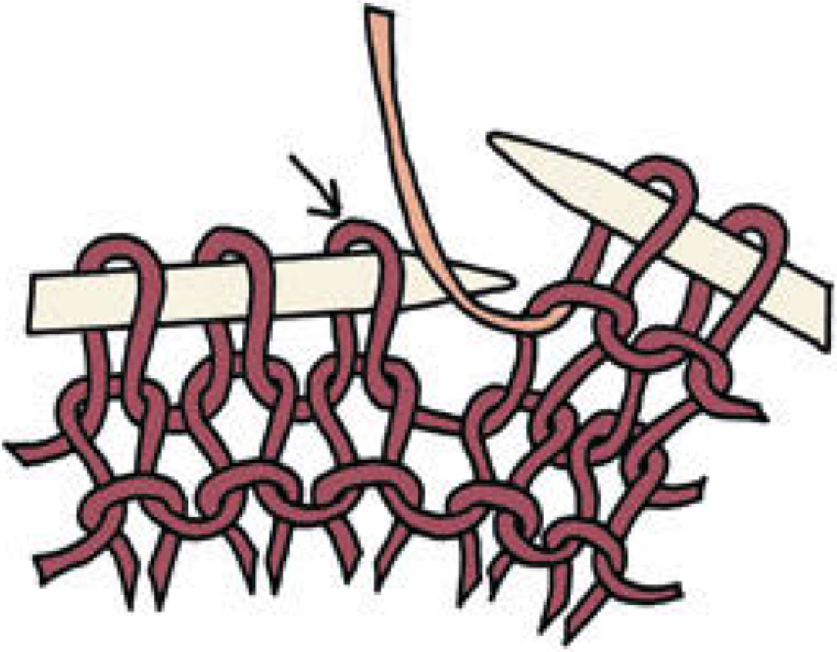

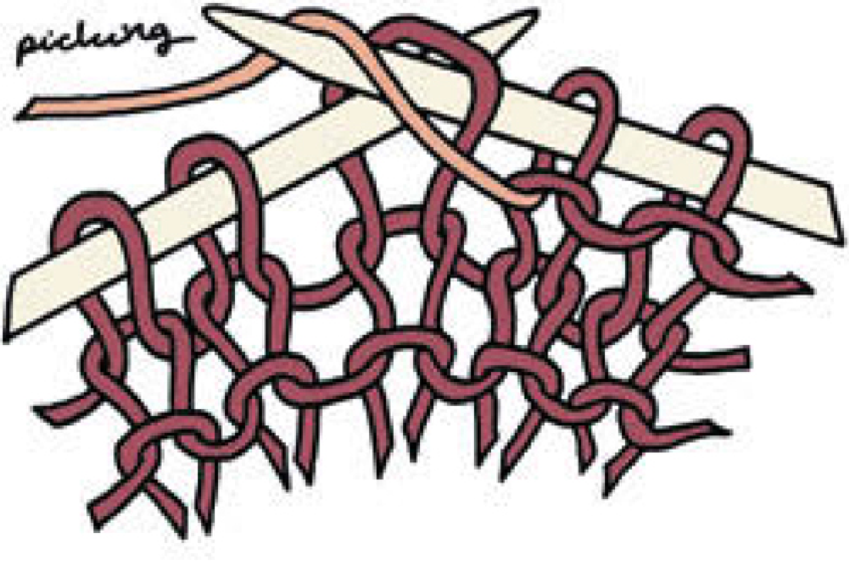
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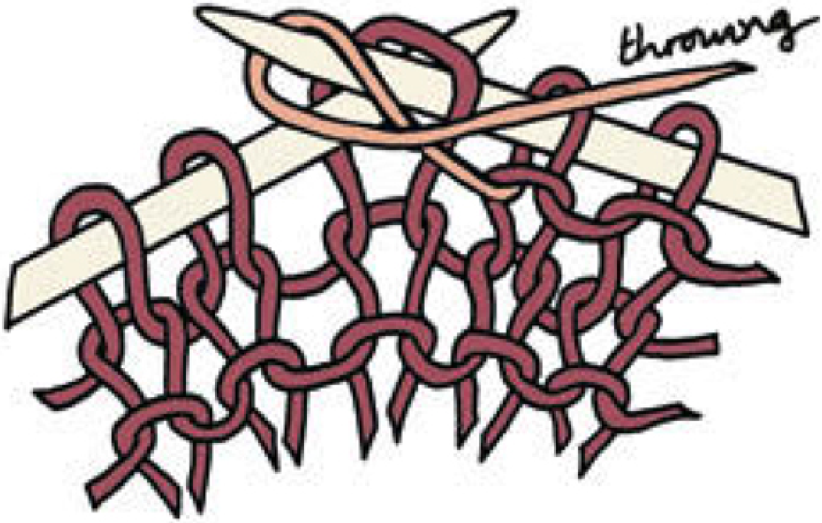
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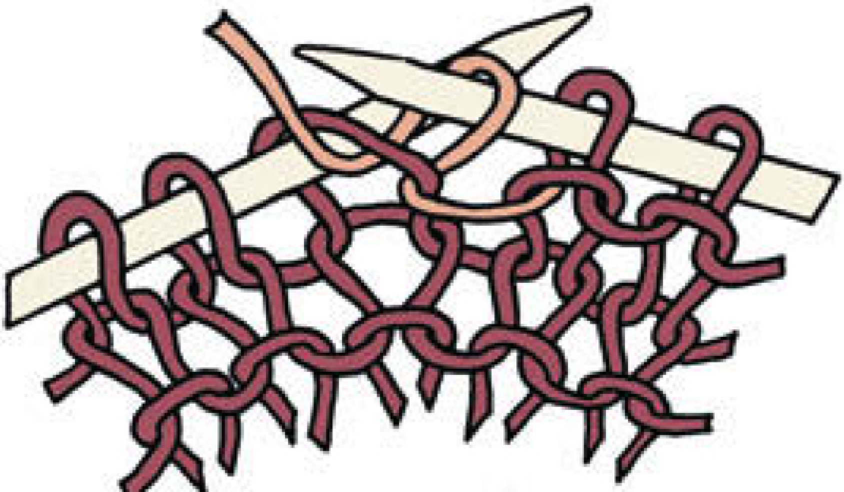

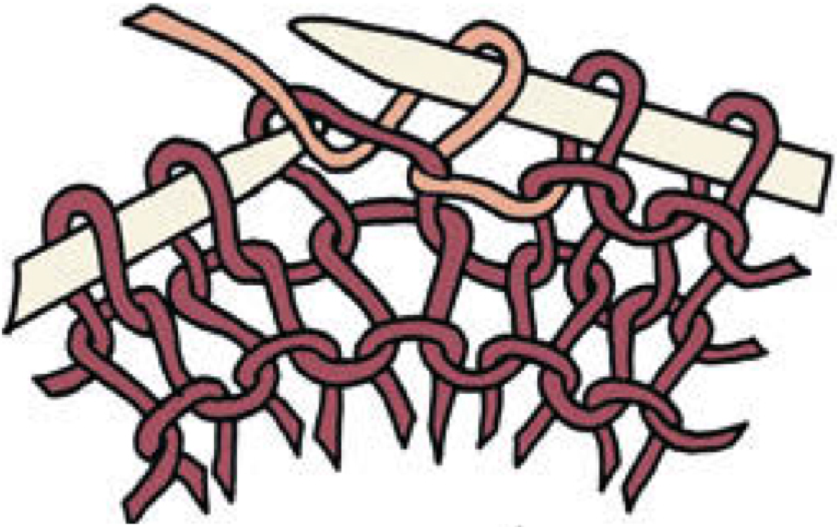

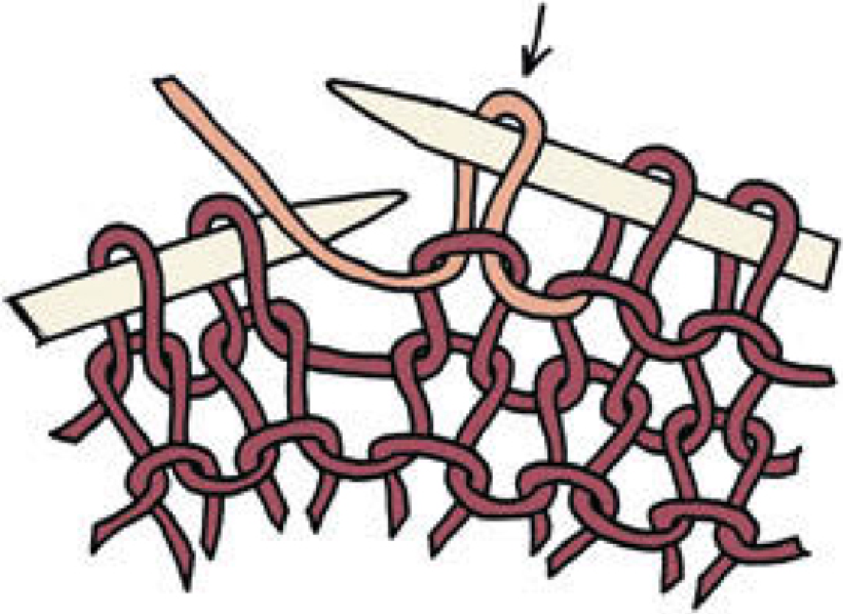

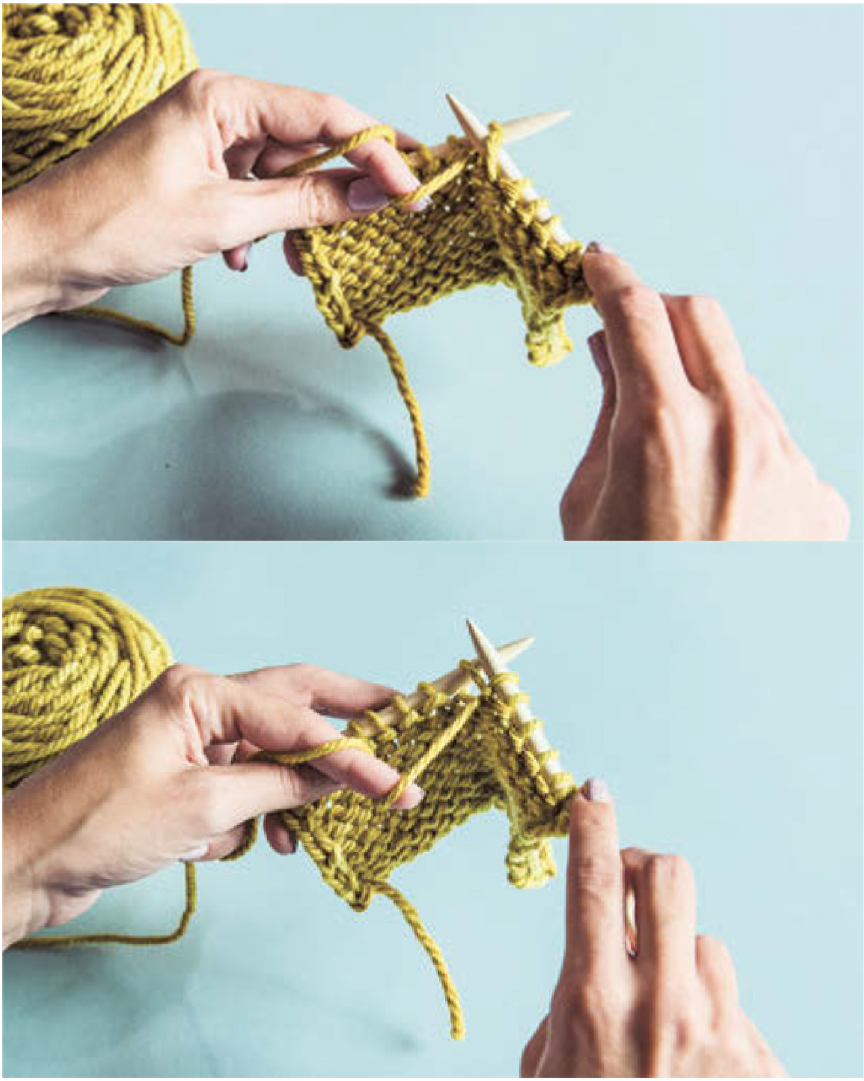

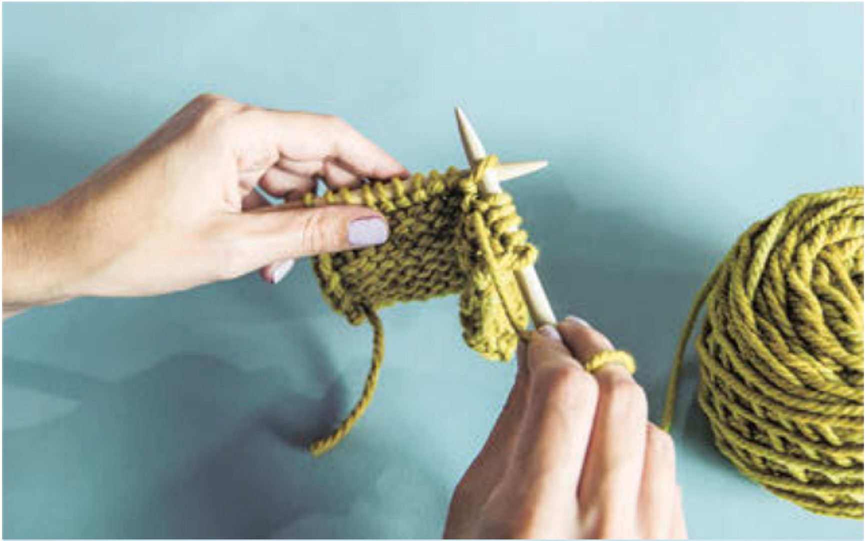

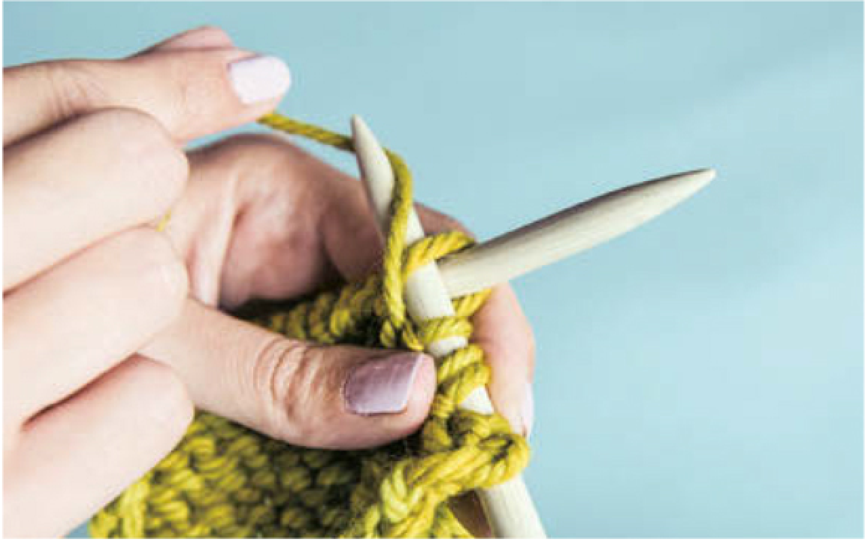

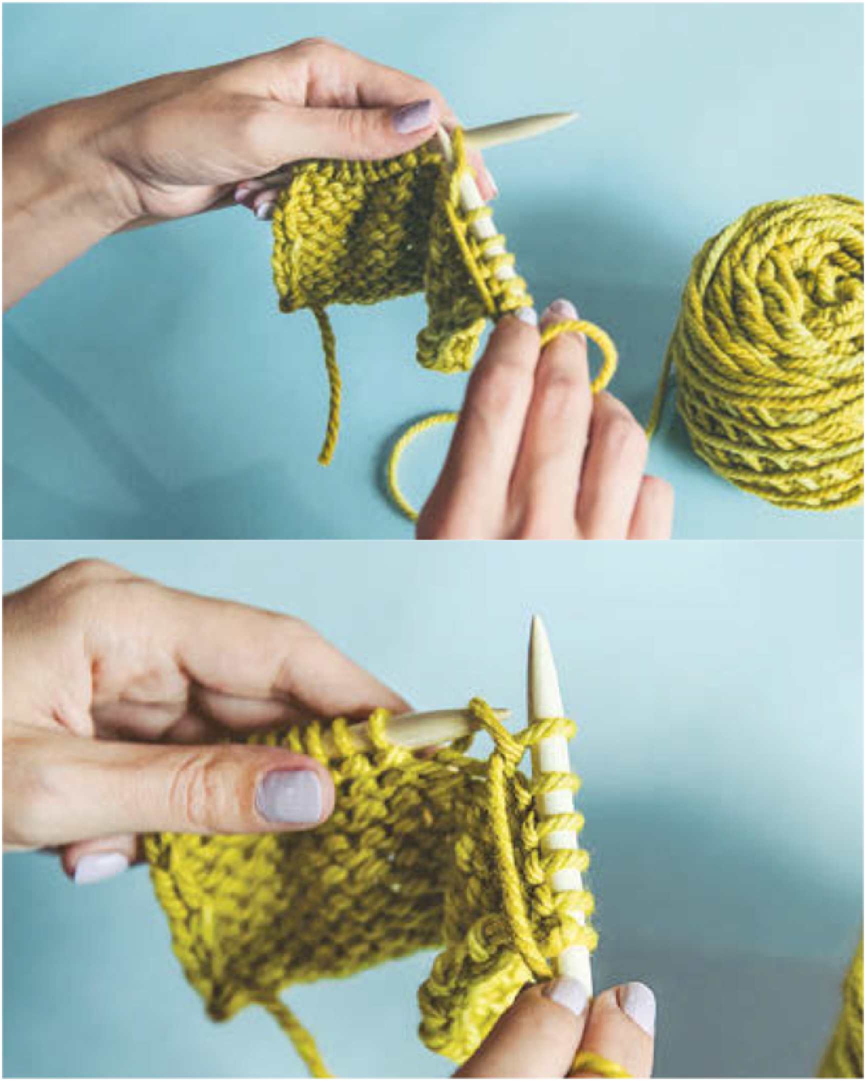

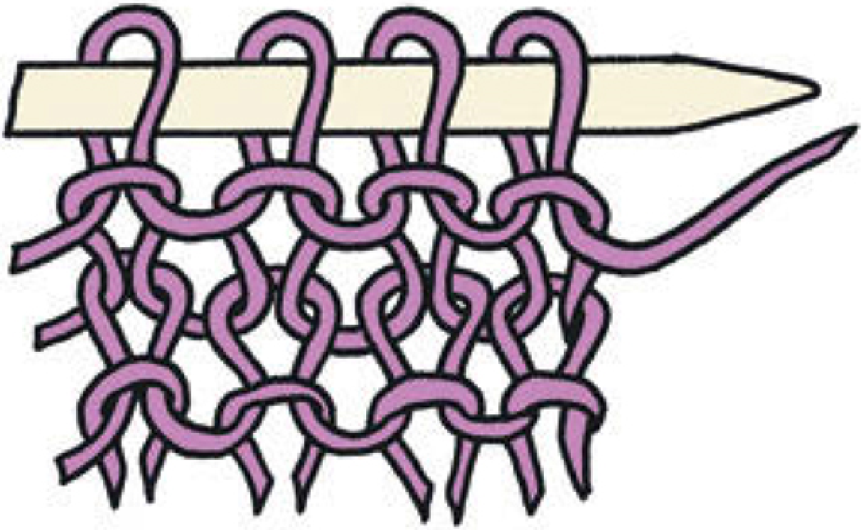

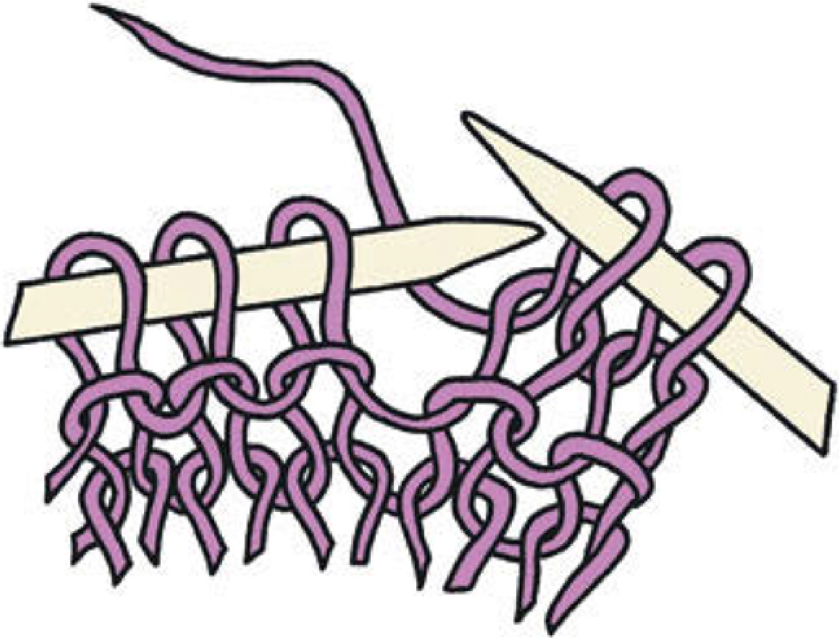

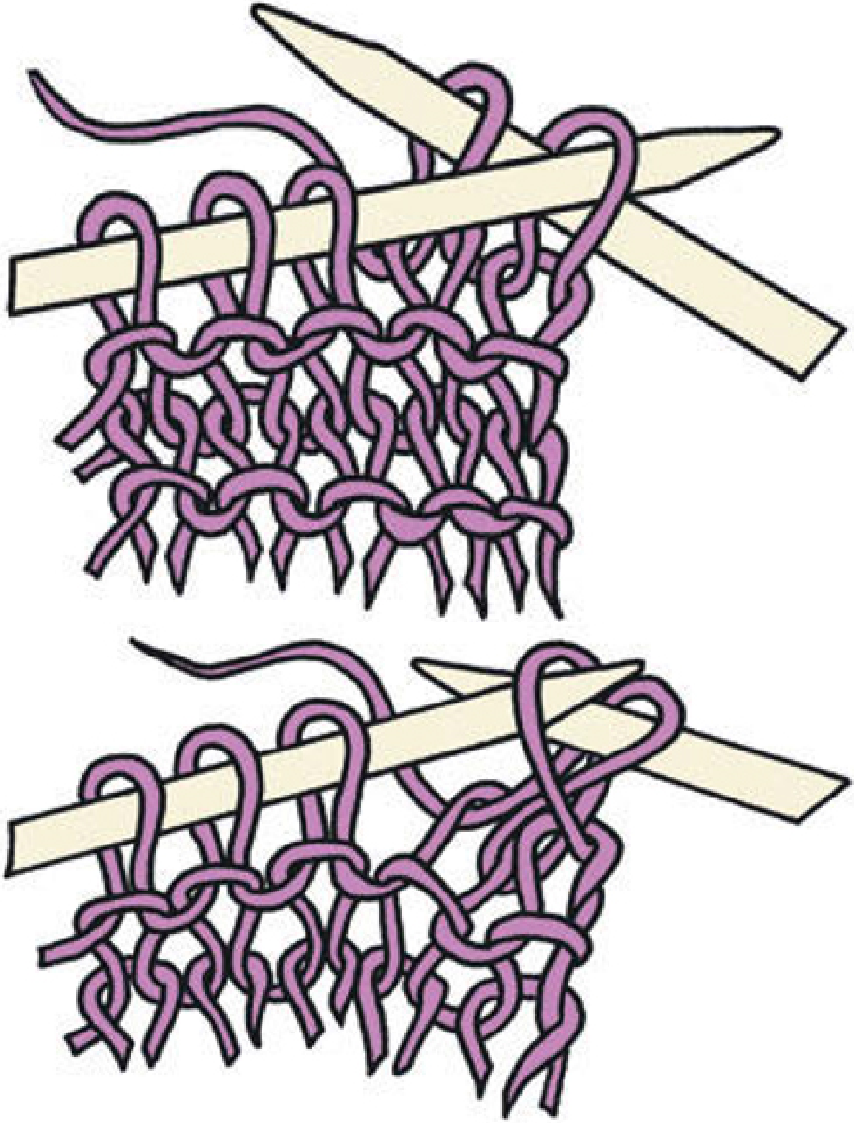

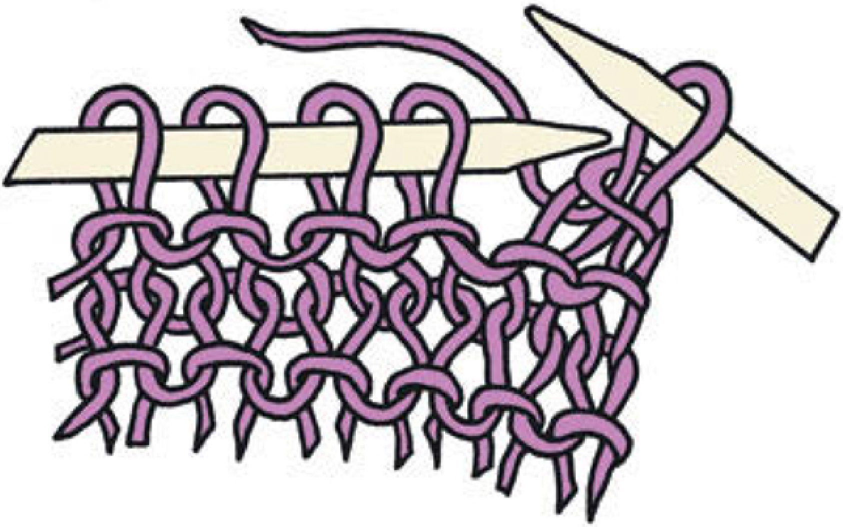

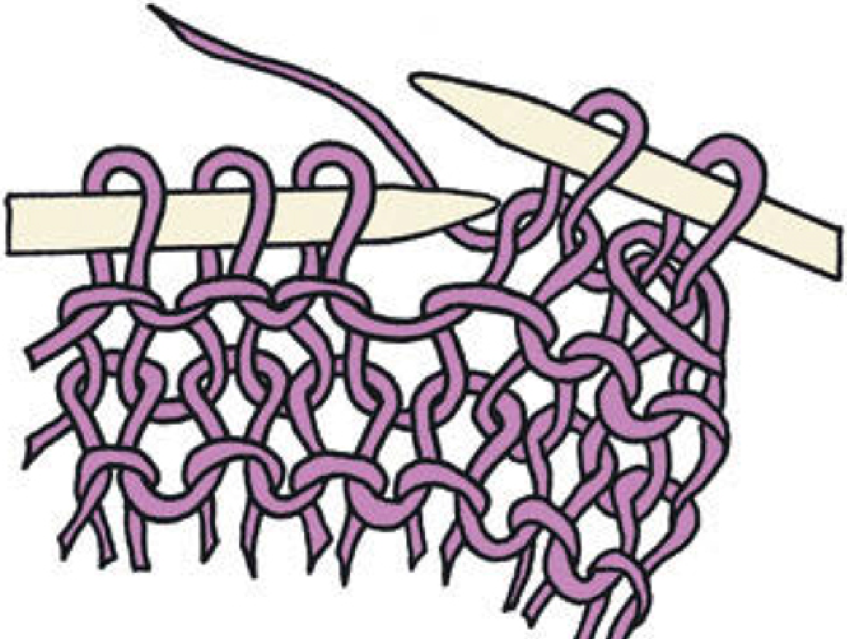

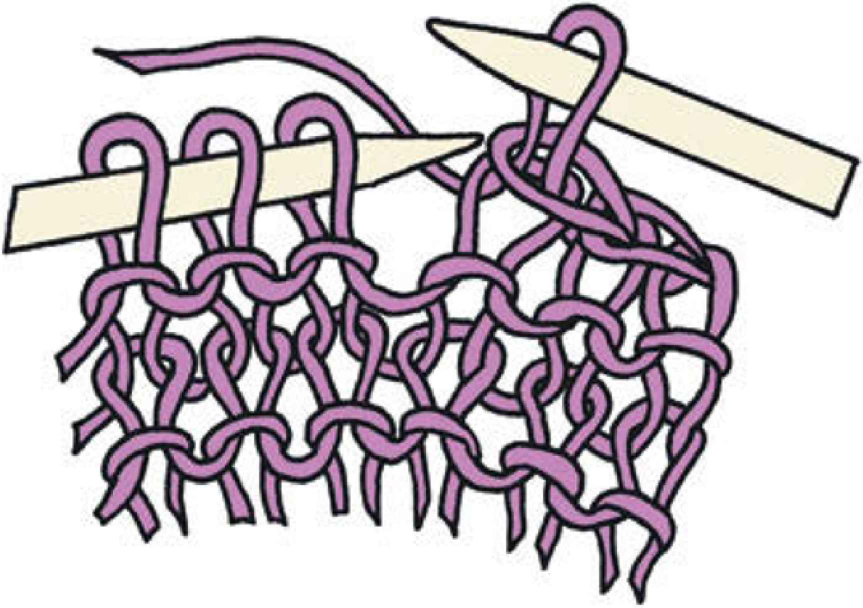

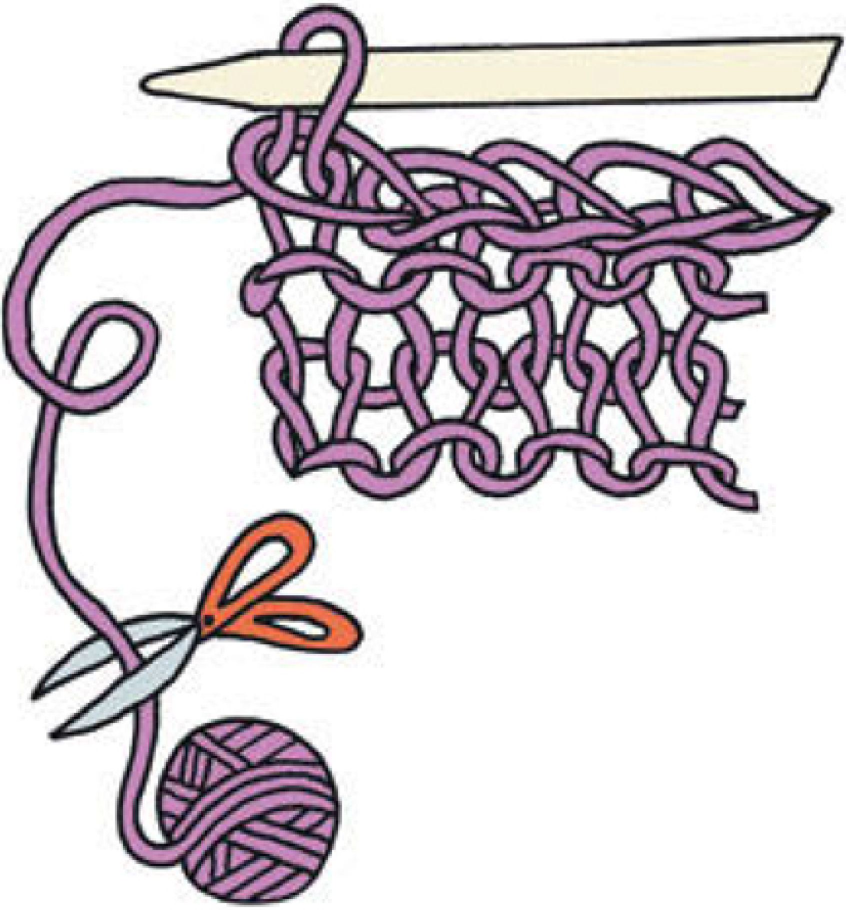

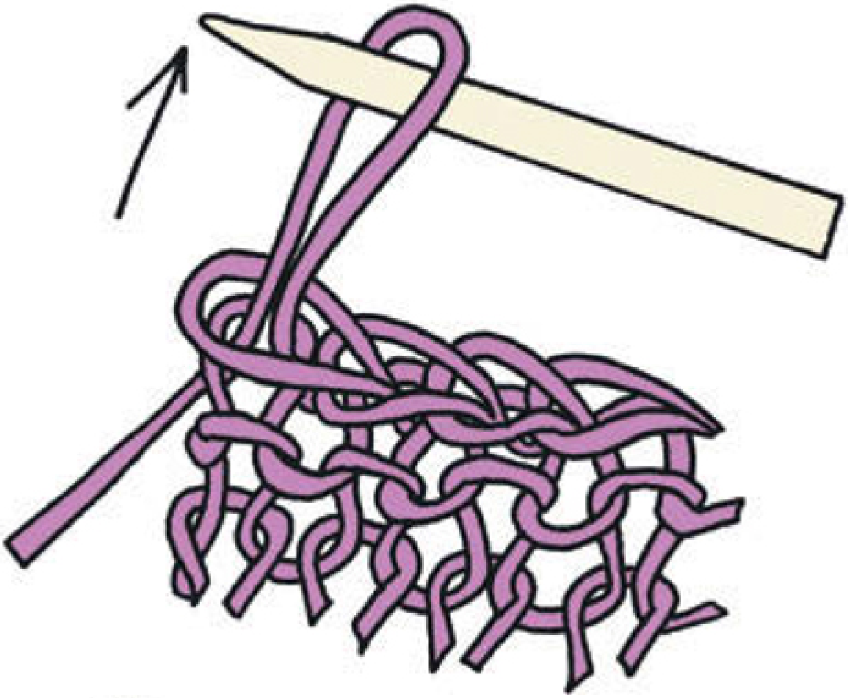

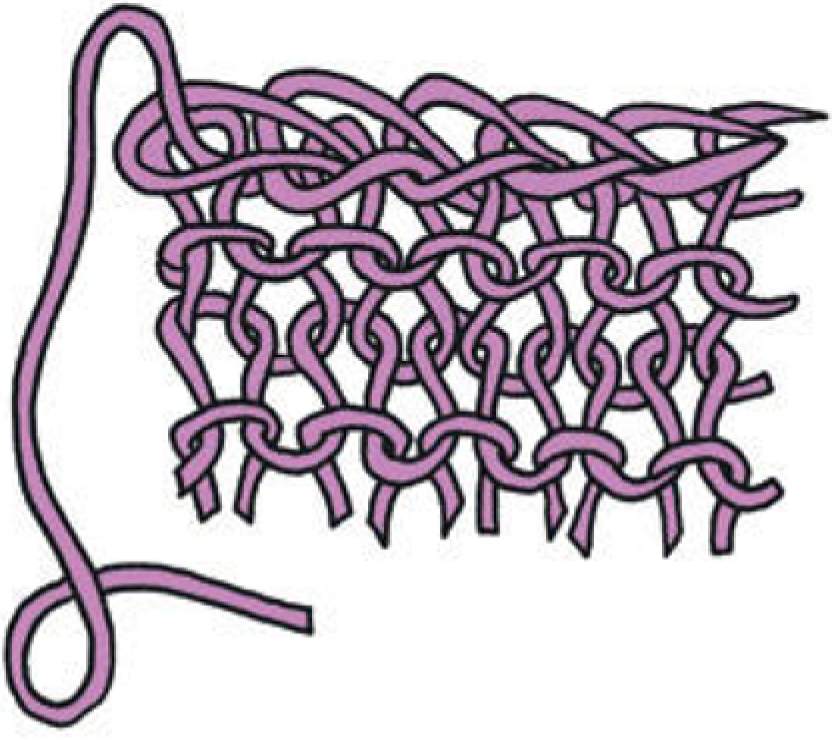

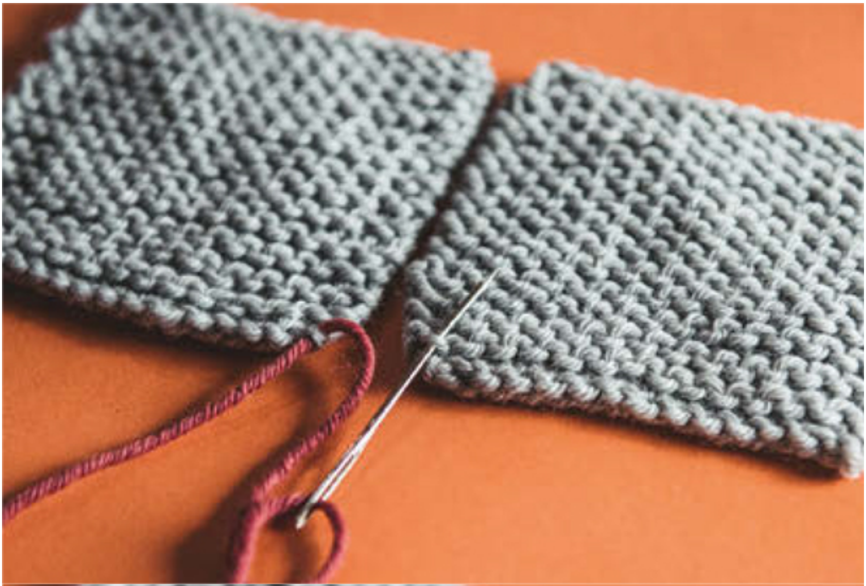

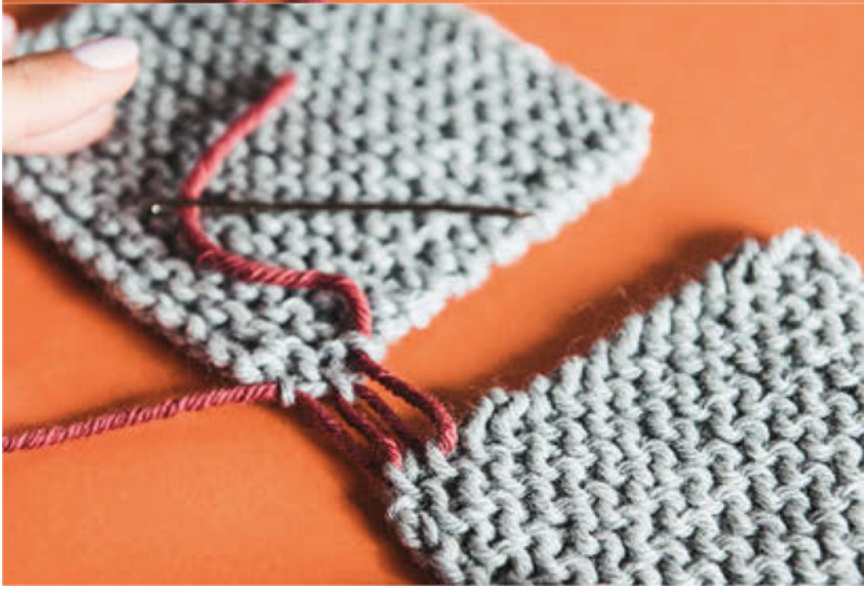

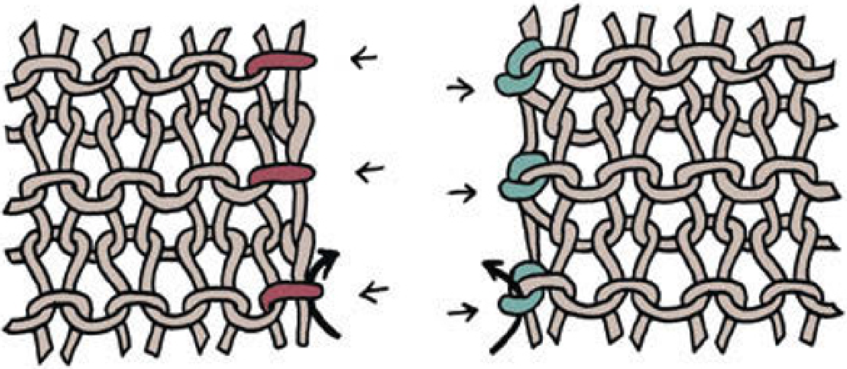

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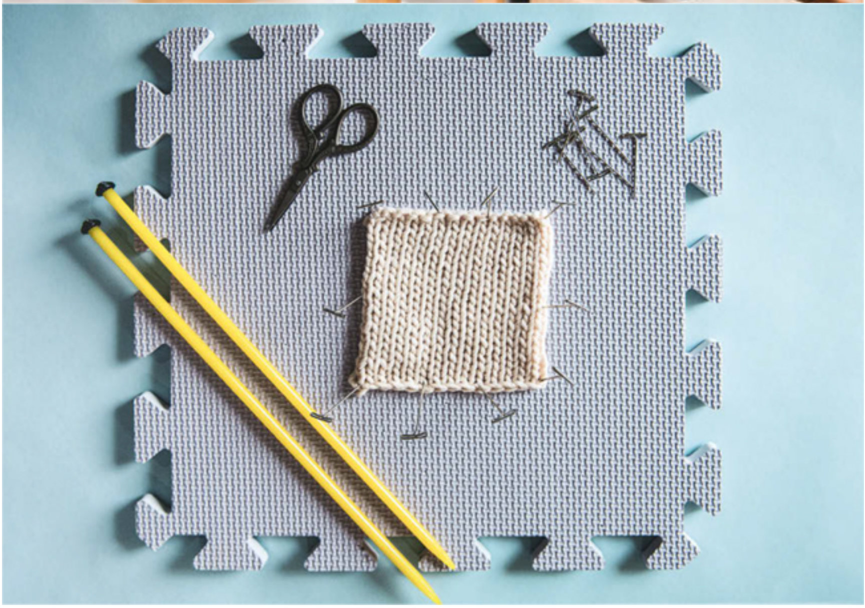

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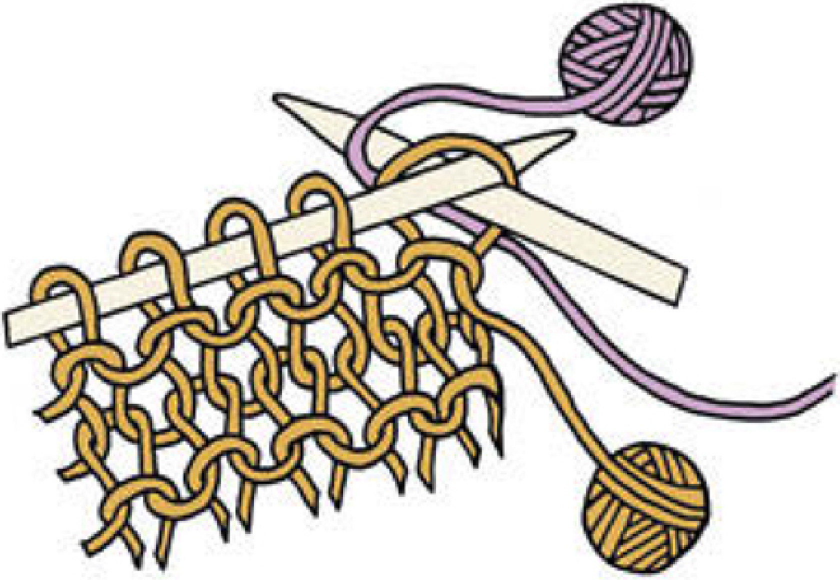
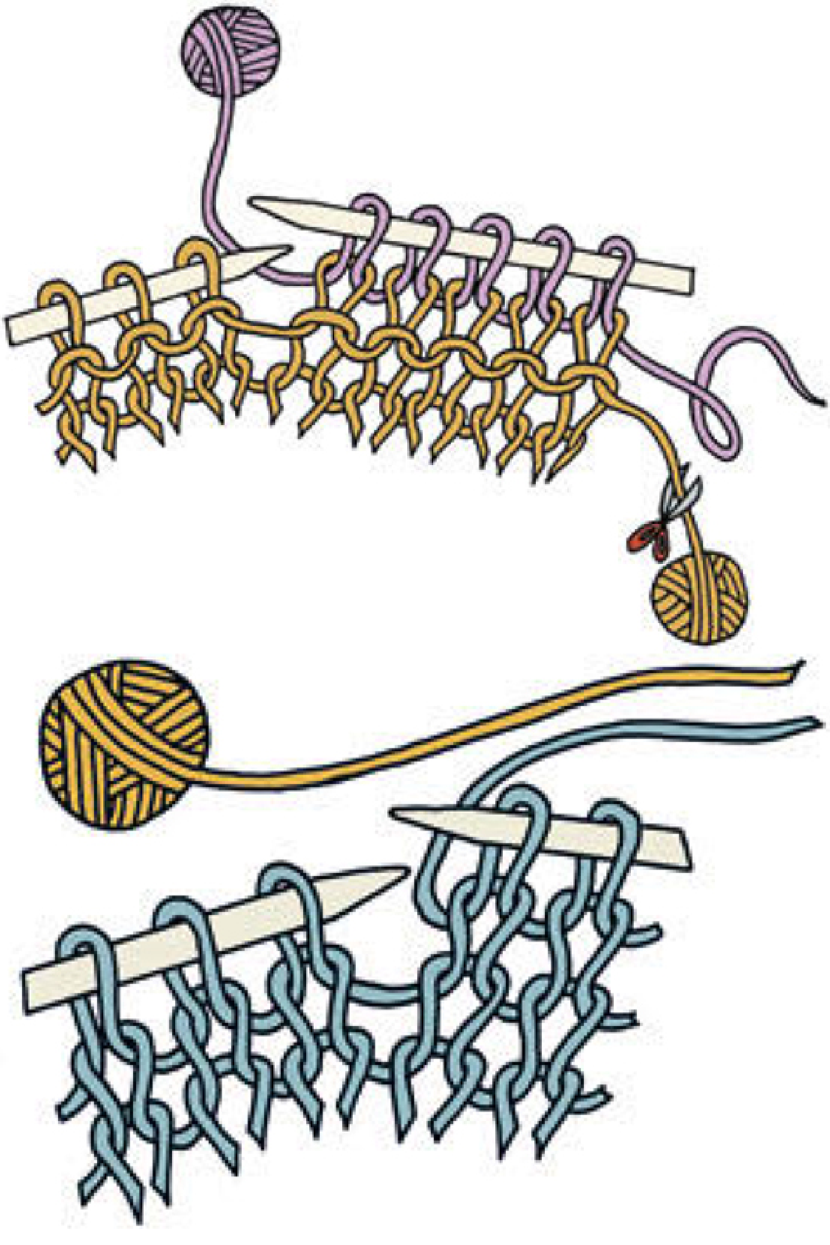
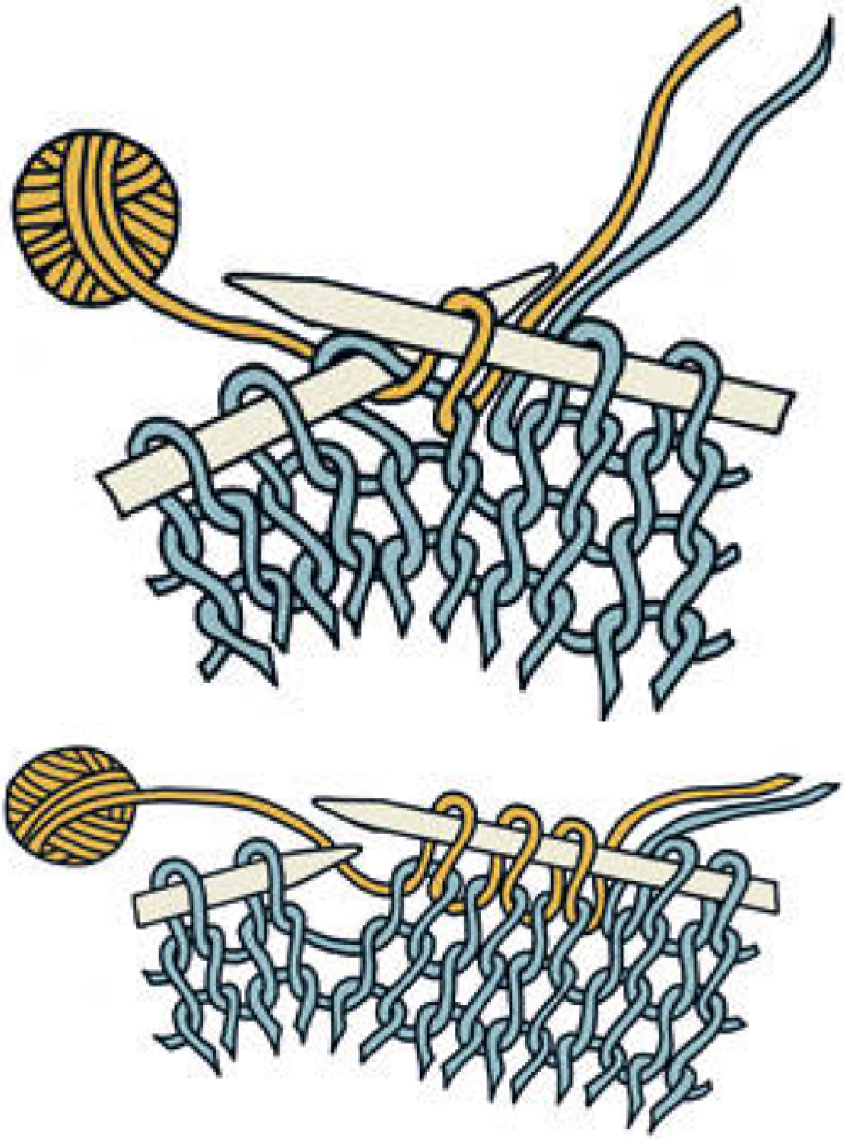






PART 1

USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Okay, deep breath—we're jumping in. A few things to know (and remember) before we get started:

1. practice!

You're going to want to do some practice knitting before you start a proper project. This means taking yarn and needles and fiddling with said yarn until it looks like knitting. This might take a little while. Throw your perfectionist tendencies out the window for the time being; your knitting is probably not going to look very pretty to start with. There will likely be holes, it'll doubtless be uneven, but it'll get better, we promise. This is all about practice. And as we always say: Being bad at something is the first step to being really good at something.

2. knitting is made up of two main building blocks: the knit stitch and purl stitch

Knitting is kind of like a code or a language. In knitting, there are only really two building blocks (or words, if we're going with the language metaphor). These two building blocks are the *knit stitch* and the *purl stitch*. All knitting is basically a combination of or variation on these two stitches. Once you've got these two simple stitches down, the world is your oyster. (An oyster with a purl instead of a pearl.)

3. how to get your supplies

You can find a knitting friend to borrow needles and yarn from (like we said, knitters are nice like that), or if you're ready to invest, we suggest heading to your local yarn shop (aka LYS in knitter-speak).

In the US, you'll ask for size 8 to 10 needles and "worsted" to "bulky" weight yarn. They'll know what you're talking about. If you're in the UK, Europe, or Australia, you'll be looking for 5- to 6-mm needles and some "Aran" or "chunky" weight yarn. (Like imperial and metric measurement systems, there are still different conventions for sizing needles and yarn in different countries.) If you want to order supplies online, the same terms apply. And if you want our personal recommendation for great starter supplies, we love the yarn called Semilla Grosso by the company BC Garn and a pair of straight, short wooden needles in size 6 mm / US 10. Note: *not* double-pointed needles (DPNs).

Once you've got some yarn and needles, you can get going. This part will take you from *casting on* (making foundation loops), to the knit stitch, purl stitch, and *binding off* (fastening off your stitches so they don't unravel). These techniques are the building blocks of knitting, and once you have practiced them, you'll be ready for anything. Mainly for knitting, but just think about that extra boost you'll get from learning something new.

you will need:

(US)
Size 8–10 knitting needles
Worsted or bulky weight yarn

(UK, Europe, Australia)
5–6 mm knitting needles
Aran or chunky weight yarn

CASTING ON

Before you can knit, you need to cast on. This means getting some foundation loops onto your needles so that you can begin to make stitches. Knitting is essentially loops caught within loops, so we need to start somewhere, right? Start by making a slipknot, as shown here.

how to make a slipknot

1. Arrange your yarn as if to make a knot, with a tail of around 15 cm / 6".

2. Pull your loop through as shown, but do not pull it all the way through.

3. Your yarn should look like this.

4. Now tighten the knot so that you have a loop as shown. If you pull the end that is attached to the yarn, you can tighten the knot. Don’t pull it too hard! You want the knot to be snug but not too tight. If you pull the loose end, you can change the size of the loop.

5. You can now place your loop on your knitting needle . . . and it becomes your very first stitch. Make sure it’s sitting on the needle as shown, with its left leg behind the needle and right leg in front.

how to cast on

There are almost as many ways to cast on as there are knitters. Here we show you how to do the knitted cast-on.

1. Make a slipknot and place it on a needle. This is your first stitch. Hold this needle in your left hand.

2. Hold your empty needle in your right hand. Insert the right-hand needle into the first stitch from front to back, as shown. Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle, as shown.

3. Use the tip of your right-hand needle to pull the wrapped yarn through your first stitch.

4. Pull the loop all the way through by drawing the right-hand needle out of the stitch on your left-hand needle completely.

5. Place the loop onto your left-hand needle by inserting the tip of the left-hand needle into the loop so that the left leg of the loop sits behind the needle and the right leg sits in front, as shown.

6. You now have two stitches.

7. Continue to cast on by inserting your right-hand needle into the stitch closest to the tip of the left-hand needle and wrapping the yarn over the tip of the right-hand needle.

8. Pull the loop of wrapped yarn through by drawing the right-hand needle out of the stitch and place it on the left-hand needle as in step 5.

9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 until you have the required number of stitches.

THE KNIT STITCH

There are two major methods of holding your yarn when you are knitting. These are often referred to as *English* and *Continental*. Traditionally, most knitters in continental Europe use a method of knitting whereby they hold the yarn they are working with in their left hand. This method is also known as *picking* because knitters quickly "pick up" each stitch. Lydia, though British, taught herself to knit with videos online and just happened to choose this method.

In the UK, most knitters typically use the English style, which consists of carrying your yarn in your right hand to make stitches. Meghan learned to knit in America, where there is a mix of knitters who use the English and Continental methods. It usually depends on your teacher and their knitting ancestors.

For example, a knitter might have had a German grandmother who taught them how to knit—hence they knit Continental, or picking, style. In Meghan's case, she learned from someone who happened to knit in the English style, so that's how she's knit ever since. The English method is also sometimes called *throwing* because of the way you wrap the yarn around the needle.

Before you pick up your needles, it's a good idea to hold your yarn securely. There are many ways to do this, but here are our suggested ways. You might adjust this slightly to suit you or find a new way entirely. We aren't judging!

If you decide to pick your yarn, you will hold it in your left hand, and if you throw it, you will hold it in your right. picking throwing

There is a popular little poem that is often used to help people of all ages remember the basic steps of the knit stitch:

In through the front door,
Run around the back,
Hop through the window,
Off jumps Jack.

In simpler terms, you might think to yourself, *In, around, through, off*. Either way, repeating these phrases to yourself with each stitch will help you to ensure you haven't missed a step and also help you get a little rhythm going.

The visual guide below demonstrates how to hold the yarn for picking and throwing; on the following pages you'll find visual guides to what your yarn and needles will be doing when working knit stitches.

picking

throwing

how to make a knit stitch

We have supplied these illustrations to help you as you learn: While the steps on this page-this page show you what to do with your hands and the needles, these illustrations zoom in on what needs to happen with the stitches themselves.

top tip: holding your needles

Be sure to keep your hands (and stitches) quite close to (but not *on*) the tips of the needles. This will make it much easier to work your stitches, as your hands will have better control when they are closer together. You'll also want to be sure not to pull your needles apart (away from each other) between stitches. It might take a while for you to remember both of these things, but once you do, stitch-making will feel much easier.

1. Ensure your yarn is held at the back of the work. Insert the right-hand needle into the stitch on the left-hand needle by entering from the left-hand side of the stitch and through the loop.

2.1. If picking, use your right-hand needle to pick the yarn held in your left hand to wrap it around the right-hand needle.

2.2. If throwing, use your right hand to wrap the yarn over the tip of the right-hand needle.

3. Pull the loop of wrapped yarn through by drawing the right-hand needle out of the stitch.

4. Use the right-hand needle to guide the stitch off your left-hand needle.

5. You've just knit one stitch.

how to knit: picking (aka continental style)

1. Hold the needle with your cast-on stitches in your left hand. With the yarn held in back, drape the yarn over the index finger of your left hand and use your other fingers to support the needle and trap the strand of yarn. Insert your right-hand needle into the stitch from front to back as shown. Direct the right-hand needle through the loop and out the other side. Make sure your needles cross diagonally.

2. Maneuver your index finger to wrap the yarn over the tip of your right-hand needle, making a little bridge of yarn over it that runs from left to right. This loop of wrapped yarn is the start of a new stitch.

3. Draw this wrapped yarn through by reversing your right-hand needle out of the stitch and bringing the loop with it.

4. Use your right-hand needle to slide the stitch on your left-hand needle to the tip and allow it to drop off the end. You’ve just knit one stitch.

how to knit: throwing (aka english style)

1. Hold the needle with your cast-on stitches in your left hand. Keeping the working yarn held in back (behind your right-hand needle), insert your right-hand needle into the stitch on the left-hand needle by entering from the left-hand side. Direct the right-hand needle through the loop and out the other side as shown. Make sure your needles cross diagonally.

2. Use your right hand to pick up your yarn and wrap it over the tip of your right-hand needle, making a little bridge of yarn over it that runs from left to right. This loop of wrapped yarn is the start of a new stitch.

3. Draw this wrapped yarn through by reversing your right-hand needle out of the stitch and bringing the loop with it.

4. Use your right-hand needle to slide the stitch on your left-hand needle to the tip and allow it to drop off the end. You've just knit one stitch.

There is no right or wrong way to knit, as long as the end result comes out okay. There are advantages to both methods, so we'd recommend trying out both and seeing what feels more comfortable to you. If you ever learned to knit as a small child, you may find that one method comes to you more easily than the other.

top tip: yarn in front or back

When we reference holding your yarn "in back," it hangs on the side of the needles away from you. When your yarn is held "in front," it hangs on the side of the needles nearest you.

To practice and really make sure you've got the hang of it, we recommend that you cast on around twenty stitches and knit every stitch until you reach the end of the row. Suddenly, all your stitches will have magically traveled from your left-hand needle to your right! Then you simply put the needle with all the stitches back in your left hand, the empty needle in your right hand, and repeat. Keep on going until you really feel confident about the knit stitch. Warning: This may take some time. Don't worry, just set yourself up with your favourite album or podcast, and maybe a cup of tea, and enjoy not looking at a screen for a while.

help! My first stitch is too loose.

Keep in mind that the first stitch of every row might look and feel a little loose to you. This is okay and nothing to worry about. You'll find this will even out the more you practice your knitting. For now, it's no problemo.

help! I have more stitches than I started with.

You may find that you end up with more stitches than you started with, and that's okay. Once you've built up some practice, you'll get better and that will stop happening. You can avoid one common mistake that adds stitches by inspecting the first stitch of every row. Make sure that the yarn is hanging to the front of your knitting rather than flipped backward. When it's flipped backward, it can look like two stitches instead of one, which will of course increase the number of stitches you have on every row.

Correct: how the first stitch in a row should look.

Incorrect: how the first stitch in a row should not look.

THE PURL STITCH

Now that you’re a knit stitch pro, you can move on to purling.

A purl is a kind of reverse knit stitch (in Spanish, “purl” is *reverso*, which just means “reverse”). A purl stitch looks just like a knit stitch from the back, and vice versa. Once again, there are two methods, depending on whether you throw or pick.

If you’ve still got your stitches on your needles from practicing your knit stitch, you can just start a new row with purls instead. After you’ve worked a few rows, you may notice that purl stitches look just like knit stitches when you look at them from the other side. And you would be right. When worked alone, rows and rows of knit stitches look exactly like rows and rows of purl stitches. It’s only when we combine the two that things start looking different. For now, keep on purlin’ on until you’re a purl pro.

Just as we did with the knit stitch (this page), we have supplied these illustrations to help you as you learn to purl. The steps on this page-this page show you what to do with your hands and the needles; these illustrations zoom in on what needs to happen with the purl stitches themselves.

how to make a purl stitch

1. Ensure the working yarn is at the front of the work. Insert your right-hand needle into the front of the stitch on the left-hand needle by entering from right to left.

2.1. If picking, use your left hand to loop the yarn over the tip of your right-hand needle.

2.2. If throwing, use your right hand to wrap the yarn around the tip of your right-hand needle as shown.

3. Pull the loop of wrapped yarn through by drawing the right-hand needle out of the stitch.

4. Use your right-hand needle to guide the stitch off the left-hand needle.

5. You've just purled one stitch.

how to purl: picking (aka continental style)

1. Hold your yarn as you did for your knit stitch (see illustration on this page): your needle with your stitches ready to be purled in your left hand, and your working needle in the right. With yarn in front, insert your right-hand needle into the stitch on the left-hand side from back to front. Direct the right-hand needle through the loop and out the other side from right to left, as shown. Make sure your needles cross diagonally.

2. Maneuver your index finger to wrap the yarn over the tip of your right-hand needle, making a little bridge of yarn over it that runs around the back from right to left.

3. Guide your right-hand needle out of the stitch you just entered, drawing the loop of wrapped yarn with it, so this loop now sits on your right-hand needle.

4. Use your right-hand needle to slide the stitch on your left-hand needle to the tip and allow it to drop off the end. You’ve just purled a stitch.

how to purl: throwing (aka english style)

1. Hold your needles with your stitches ready to be purled in your left hand and your yarn and working needle held in the right. With the yarn held in front, insert your right-hand needle through the front of the stitch on your left-hand needle.

2. Use your right hand to wrap the yarn around the back of the tip of the right-hand needle.

3. Guide your right-hand needle under the stitch you just entered, drawing the loop of wrapped yarn with it.

4. This loop now sits on your right-hand needle. Use your right-hand needle to slide the stitch from your left-hand needle to the tip and allow it to drop off the end. You've just purled a stitch and are ready to repeat.

top tip: reading your knitting

To help distinguish your knits from your purls, think of the purl stitch as being horizontal, like a pearl necklace, and a knit stitch as vertical, hanging like a knitted scarf.

We like the poem for purling even better than the one for the knit stitch:

In through the back,
Round the front,
Out the back door,
Jack must be drunk.

BINDING OFF

When it is time for your knitting to come off the needles, you need to secure each stitch so that it can't unravel.

In the US, this process is known as *binding off,* whereas in the UK it is referred to as *casting off*. As they say, America and Britain are two countries divided by a common language.

Below is the most commonly used method for binding off, using all knit stitches. You'll find that as you become more advanced, other techniques can be used to achieve different effects. For example, you can bind off using all purl stitches, or a combination of both.

top tip: binding off other stitches

At times, you may need to bind off purl stitches, or a combination of knit and purl stitches. To do so, all you need to do is work the stitches as instructed, repeating steps 3–9 as below. The instructions might say, "Bind off in pattern." This just means that you will work the stitches in the same way as you have been, in the stitch pattern given for the previous row or rows, binding them off as you go.

how to bind off knitwise

1. Start at the beginning of a new row.

2. Knit two stitches.

3. Using your left-hand needle, pick up the first stitch worked on your right-hand needle.

4. Lift and leapfrog the first stitch over the second stitch, making sure that the second stitch remains on your right-hand needle.

5. Drop the lifted stitch off the end of the right-hand needle and remove your left-hand needle from the loop—you've just bound off one stitch.

6. Knit one stitch—two stitches sit on the right-hand needle.

7. Repeat steps 3–6 until one stitch remains.

8. To finish binding off and secure your knitting, cut the yarn, leaving a 20.5 cm / 8" tail.

9. Use your right-hand needle to draw the tail through.

10. You have now bound off all your stitches. Time to weave in your tail (see this page).

YOUR FIRST PROJECT: squishy garter stitch coasters(or blanket squares, or a future scarf, or . . .)

Now you’re ready to knit some soft little squares. We’re also going to try reading a pattern. Patterns may look intimidating, but fear not—it’s no more complicated than writing “LOL” instead of “laughing out loud.” So why not just “k” for “knit” and “p” for “purl”? How about just “sts” for “stitches." See? Not so intimidating after all. Let’s give it a go!

abbreviations

k knit
p purl
St(s) stitch(es)
RS right side of fabric
WS wrong side of fabric

(PS: There is a whole abbreviations list at the back of this book, on this page, so you can always refer to it if need be.)

garter stitch coasters

Garter stitch is what we call knitting that is all one kind of stitch—either all knit, or all purl. It looks the same on both sides and is generally the easiest stitch pattern to do. It's deliciously spongy and always looks great—especially when it's not knit too loosely. Here are instructions for making these squares in either knit or purl so you can practice doing both.

you will need:

- **Yarn:** BC Garn Semilla Grosso (or 50 g / 1.75 oz of heavy worsted weight yarn)
- **Needles:** 6 mm / US 10 knitting needles
- **Notions:** Tapestry needle (also known as a darning needle)

knitted garter stitch square

Cast on 15 sts.
Row 1 (RS): K to end.
Row 2 (WS): K to end.
Rep Rows 1–2 twelve more times.
Bind off all sts.

purled garter stitch square

Cast on 15 sts.
Row 1 (RS): P to end.
Row 2 (WS): P to end.
Rep Rows 1–2 twelve more times.
Bind off all sts.

These squares are like knitted building blocks.
You can use them on their own as coasters or sew them together to make a quilt or even a scarf.
Turn to this page for a visual guide for how to sew your squishy squares together.

faq

Q: What's this about RS (right side) and WS (wrong side)?
A: The right side is the public-facing side (like the outside of a sweater), and the wrong side is the inside (like the inside of a sock). To be honest, it doesn't really matter with these little squares, so don't get too worried about it just yet.

Q: How can I tell how many rows I have done?

A: That can be tricky, but with garter stitch, you will see little ridges appear. Each ridge is actually two rows' worth of knitting.

Q: Okay, I knit my square and bound off my stitches. Now what?

A: Whoo! Congratulations! Now you'll have the tails of your yarn from your cast-on and bind-off just hanging out. Let's move right along to our next section on this page: weaving in yarn ends.

how to sew garter stitch squares together using mattress stitch

1. Thread a tapestry needle with your working yarn or a matching yarn (here we're using a contrast color to make it clear). Insert your tapestry needle into the top knit bump of the first row.

2. On the opposite side of the seam, pick up the bottom knit bump on the corresponding row.

3. Weave back and forth to join the two sides together, passing your needle under the top knit bump on one side and then the bottom knit bump on the other, working your way up the rows.

4. As you continue up the rows, gently pull both ends of your yarn to close the seam at intervals, being careful not to pull too tight, and keeping the tension even. Marvel at the magic of mattress stitch and weave in the ends (see this page) to finish.

When sewing your squares together, use this guide to help you identify the top knit bump (shown in green) and bottom knit bump (shown in burgundy). The curved arrow shows the direction your yarn should travel through the bump.

TIDYING UP: weaving in yarn ends

You might be tempted to just cut the tails, or yarn ends, off your project once you're done. Eep! That could lead to your project unraveling, and we don't want that.

You actually have to weave in the ends of your yarn so your stitches are nice and secure. There are about a zillion ways of doing this, but here's one of our go-to faves.

how to weave in yarn ends

1. Thread your tapestry needle with the tail end. In this example, we're using a contrast color for visibility, but you will be weaving in the ends already attached to your knitting. On the wrong side of your work, skim the tapestry needle diagonally through a few stitch bumps.

2. Pull the yarn through and point your needle in the direction of the bottom edge of your knitting to weave the needle through more stitch bumps.

3. Repeat, skimming through a few stitches one more time.

4. Cut the tail close to your work, ensuring that the woven tail is hidden from the right side of your work.

THE RIGHT STUFF:how to choose your tools and materials

what color?

You don’t have to use the exact same yarn and needles that your pattern (or book) calls for. In fact, the beauty and fun of knitting is that you can do it your way. The better you get at knitting, the more you can play around with your materials, but off the bat, the first place you can improvise is with color. A yarn shop will become your artist’s palette. It is totally okay to spend an hour (or hours) deliberating on the perfect color for a sweater. Equally, it is totally okay to picture the perfect color in your head and then not stop until you’ve found the exact hand-dyed color you’ve been dreaming of. It probably exists! (If not, you may go down a yarn-dyeing rabbit hole yourself. We won’t judge.)

which yarn?

You may also find that your local yarn shop (LYS) doesn’t carry the exact yarn your pattern calls for. This is okay and not surprising. These days, there is an abundance of yarn brands, and this is to be celebrated. The fact that your pattern may have come from a designer online who lives in another country may also affect the availability of the yarn used. If you have a friendly, helpful LYS, they should be happy to guide you through choosing an appropriate substitute yarn. We both used to work in an LYS, and it was definitely part of our job to help customers in this way, so don’t be shy.

If the shop is busy, or they are unable to help you, the best way to find a substitute for a yarn is to check how many meters per gram (or yards per ounce) there are in the ball of yarn (all this info will be on the yarn’s label). We suggest BC Garn Semilla Grosso for our Garter Stitch Squares. It has 80 meters / 87 yards in a 50-gram / 1.75-ounce ball. So, if you find another yarn with a similar meterage or yardage per weight, you’re golden. For example, a yarn that’s 100 grams / 3.5 ounce with 160 meters / 175 yards would work perfectly, because it has the same ratio of meters to grams.

what if i don’t like wool?

Now let’s talk about fiber. Wool is the beloved traditional knitting fiber, and we absolutely recommend it for your first projects. There is a time and a place for acrylics, cottons, linens, and all the other fibers out there, but we’re big wool fans for a few reasons. To start with, wool is a wonderful, natural resource; knitting is a tactile experience that can take you away from screens and technology, so we encourage you to feel all the feels. It’s true that the softness of wool varies depending on the breed of the sheep and the ways in which it has been processed, but we encourage you to explore the wools of the world. You may think it’s itchy, but we are sure you can find a wool that feels great to you.

Secondly, wool has great elasticity. We've found that newbie knitters tend to work their stitches really tightly. This will ease up over time as you relax into things. But, to make it easier on yourself as you learn, choosing a nice bouncy wool will allow for some give in your knitting. Having said all this, we know that sometimes wool just isn't an option. In that case, there are some great cotton yarns that will work well for you while you are practicing. Look for something around an Aran or worsted weight that you can knit on 5-mm / US 8 needles. If you need extra help choosing, you can always ask at your local yarn shop and see what they recommend.

which needles?

We recommend choosing some smooth wooden needles to get you started. Now that we're super-pro knitters, we really like metal circular needles (more on those later) to help us speed along. For new knitters, wooden needles help keep your yarn more secure because they are less slippery. Straight needles (as opposed to circulars) are great for beginners, as they keep things nice and simple.

WOUND RIGHT ROUND: wrangling skeins

Yarn comes in many forms off the shelf. Manufacturers and producers have different ways of packaging them that are good to know about up front.

1. ball

With a ball, you're ready to knit pretty much as soon as you take the label off. You have a choice—knit with the end of the yarn that is on the outside of the ball or dig into the middle and fish that end out. Option one is easier at the start, but option two will allow the ball to stay stationary as you knit. The yarn pictured top right is also a ball, albeit a hand-wound "granny ball."

2. bullet

Bullets are pretty much the same as balls, just a little more . . . oblong? Same deal with pulling the end of the yarn from the outside or inside as above. Fun fact: Sometimes when pulling the end of the yarn out of the inside of a ball or bullet, a clump of yarn will come out suddenly. This is what knitters refer to as "yarn barf." It is the nicest barf you will ever see.

3. skein

A skein is a large loop of yarn that has been twirled around itself to form a tidy twist. Skeins are also often referred to as *hanks* of yarn. Skeins generally should not be knit from as is; they need to be wound into a ball first, as demonstrated on this page. You will most often see yarn in the form of a skein when it comes from a small producer, often an independent yarn dyer. Hand-dyed yarns, which are some of the most beautiful, unique, and special yarns out there, are typically dyed in an untwisted skein. Presenting the yarn in skein form means that knitters are able to see the variegations and subtleties that appear in hand-dyed yarns, in addition to the fact that skeins lay beautifully on the shelf in yarn shops or your home.

4. cake

The ball that is produced when you use a ball winder is often called a cake. Some producers will sell their yarns already in the form of a cake. This is as useful and delicious as it sounds.

Skeins are wound into cakes using two lovely contraptions: a swift and a winder. They are used in tandem. The skein is stretched around the swift, and then one end of the yarn is attached to the winder. The winder is either electric or powered with a hand-crank. Most local yarn shops will allow you to use their swift and winder or wind your yarn for you if you've bought it there.

Here is a swift and winder setup as you might see in your LYS. Note that there are different styles of swifts, but essentially, they all work the same way, holding your skein in place while you wind it.

It’s quick and easy to use a swift and winder (as you can see below), but it’s also possible to wind your skein by hand. Just make sure to keep the skein taut while you wind from it. It’s useful to have a buddy to help with this, or if your buddies are all off doing something else (they are missing out), you can place the skein around the back of a chair, or even around your knees.

winding a skein into a cake

1. Remove any labels from your skein and gently untwist your yarn from a skein into a loop.

2. Lift your loop of yarn over and open the swift (like an umbrella) to meet the yarn and hold it in place. To keep skeins tidy and untangled, dyers tie the yarn at intervals. Carefully snip these knots. One of the knots will include both ends of the skein, which makes them very easy to find.

3. Take one end and thread it through the tension loops on your winder, then fix it into the groove on the top of the winder, which will keep it in place. Steadily turn the handle of the winder to start transforming your skein into a cake.

4. Once your skein has transformed into a cake, gently pull it off of the winder. Tuck the end into the outside of the cake and you’re ready to knit from the center of the cake. You might like to tuck the label into the center of your cake to keep it safe for future reference.

DOING IT RIGHT: swatching and blocking

Those little Garter Stitch Squares we did before? Those are basically swatches. What do you think of when you see the word *swatch*? Paint swatches? Fabric samples? Well, knitting swatches are essentially both. When you're about to embark on a project that needs to be a certain size, or to fit your body in some way, you'll want to do a test swatch. This means working up a small sample of knitting with the yarn and needles you intend to use for your project. You see, just like everyone has different handwriting, everyone also knits to a different tension. Some people knit more loosely than others, some more tightly, just because of the unique way they hold their yarn or needles. In fact, an individual might knit differently at different times in their life—you might find you knit more tightly when you're anxious, or more loosely when on vacation.

Every (good) knitting pattern will indicate the tension, or *gauge*, to which you should knit. As we said, this is especially important for items that need to fit. If you knit more loosely than the person who designed your pattern, your sweater or hat will be looser, too, sometimes to comedic effect.

To ensure that your tension is the same as in the pattern, you've got to swatch. We can't tell you how many times we've heard of a knitter spending months on a project only to discover at the end that it doesn't fit (in fact, we've been guilty of this too). The best way to avoid this is to swatch, swatch, swatch. We'll say it again: SWATCH! Think of it as the warm-up before the big game—it'll be worth it.

how to swatch

step 1: knit a square

So how do you swatch, anyway? Check the gauge section of your pattern. It will say something like this: “15 sts and 20 rows = 10 cm / 4" in garter stitch.” This means that 15 stitches and 20 rows should come out as a 10 cm / 4" square. In order to check your gauge (to see whether you get the same number of stitches per 10 cm square as the pattern designer did), you need to cast on more than the number of stitches you need to measure. In this case, you will need to measure 15 stitches, so we would recommend casting on an even 20. This way it’s easier to measure and you’ll get a better feel for the texture of the fabric you will be making. Once you have cast on, knit in garter stitch (or whatever stitch pattern is indicated) for more than 20 rows, and bind off. This should result in a jaunty little square, also known as a swatch.

step 2: block the swatch

Now give the swatch a nice, soapy bath. This step is essential if you intend to wash your finished project. (Please say that you do . . .) Yarn is kind of like hair in the sense that it resets when you wash it. We usually hand-wash all our knits, so do the same with your swatch. Get a little no-rinse wool wash or gentle shampoo, fill up a sink with warm (but not hot) water, and then submerge the swatch. Let it soak for at least 15 minutes. When you take it out of the water, you can squeeze out the excess moisture, but try not to wring it. The less you agitate your precious swatch, the better. You can roll it up in a clean towel and press gently to squeeze more moisture out. This will speed up the drying time. Lay the swatch out flat on an out-of-the-way surface or a blocking mat. Once it’s dry, it’s time to measure it.

This process is called *blocking*. You might notice that your swatch looks better post-blocking than it did before. Getting moisture running through all your new stitches relaxes the yarn. This sets the stitches in place and can even erase any unevenness that was there before. It’s magic.

blocking and finished garments

You will begin to block your finished projects the same way you block your swatches—by soaking in warm water and then squeezing moisture out of your finished knit (see this page). It’s best to block pieces of your knitting first before seaming them (if seaming is required). While wet, lay your project flat on foam mats or a dry towel. If you’re blocking a larger project (like a scarf or a sweater in one piece) the fabric can be a bit more unwieldy, so make sure to handle it gently while wet to prevent it from getting distorted. Once you’ve laid it out, check the measurements; each piece should be according to the pattern. Adjust the fabric and pin the project so it meets the required measurements.

step 3: measure up

To measure the swatch, lay it out on a completely flat surface (so . . . not your lap). Grab a ruler—we prefer a ruler to a measuring tape since it's rigid, but if you use a tape measure, keep an eye on it and don't let it bend while you are measuring. You can even get a fancy gauge-measuring ruler—they're rad. Now it's time to count how many stitches you have in a 10 cm or 4" space. We do 4" instead of 1" so that there is enough space to get an accurate average per inch. Most knitting patterns will state the gauge over 10 cm or 4" as well. You can use two pins to mark off the 4" length on the swatch and then count each stitch within that space. In garter stitch, each little curve is one stitch. In stockinette stitch (or stocking stitch, as it's also called) each stitch looks like a "V" on the front (or the right side) of the fabric.

The knitter's jackpot is getting the gauge on the first try. Sometimes it happens, sometimes not. If you don't have the same number of stitches that the pattern states right off the bat, don't worry: It's completely normal. It just means you need to swatch again. You don't need to move on to a different yarn necessarily, especially if you are using the yarn called for in the pattern or something close to it. What you will need to do change is your needle size. This can be frustrating for new knitters who don't already have an arsenal of needles (one day soon you will). Needles determine how big the loops of yarn become. So small needles = small loops, and big needles = big loops. That's why thinner yarns are typically knit with smaller needles and vice versa.

So, say you have more stitches in 4" than is called for in your pattern. That means your stitches are smaller than they need to be, because more of them can fit into that 4" space. What you need to do is try again with bigger needles. How much bigger depends on how big the discrepancy is between your gauge and the pattern's gauge, but usually one needle size up is a good place to start. If you don't have enough stitches in the 4" space, then you have fewer stitches than the pattern calls for and you need to go down a needle size. That will make your stitches smaller, and you'll be able to fit more into that 4" space. Then you'll swatch again. Hopefully the second time's a charm, but if not, guess what—time to swatch again. We find it rare that a knitter will need to swatch more than three times, so don't let the swatching get you down. It. Will. Be. Worth. It. We promise.

help! I have too many stitches.

You need to try a bigger needle.

help! I don't have enough stitches.

You need to try a smaller needle.

Once you've got your stitch gauge on track, check your row gauge too—i.e., how many rows of knitting fit into the 10 cm / 4" space vertically. Ideally, both your stitch gauge and your row gauge will be spot on, but if not, generally your stitch gauge is the more important to get right.

how to join a new length of yarn

If you are planning to change your yarn at the end of a row, ensure you have a length of yarn at least three times the width of the piece in order to complete the row or round you are working on (different stitch patterns will need different amounts of yarn per row). You might be adding a new ball of yarn because you’ve come to the end of the old one, but there are other reasons too:

- You may find a knot in your yarn. This happens, and the best way to deal with any knot is to cut it out and rejoin your yarn.
- You may discover a thick or thin section of your yarn.
- You’re changing yarn colors.

Whatever your reason, here’s our how-to for joining a new yarn or color.

joining new yarn in the middle of a row

1. Pick up the “new” yarn (shown in purple), ready to knit. Insert right-hand needle into first stitch to knit as normal but wrap with new yarn. Draw needle through to make a stitch, leaving a tail of at least 20 cm / 8" of your new yarn.

2. Continue knitting with new yarn. Cut your “old” yarn (shown in yellow), leaving a tail of at least 20 cm / 8". Weave in loose ends at end of project (see this page).

joining new yarn at the start of a row

1. Leave a tail of at least 20.5 cm / 8" of your “old” yarn (shown in blue) and drop this yarn. Pick up the new yarn, ready to knit.

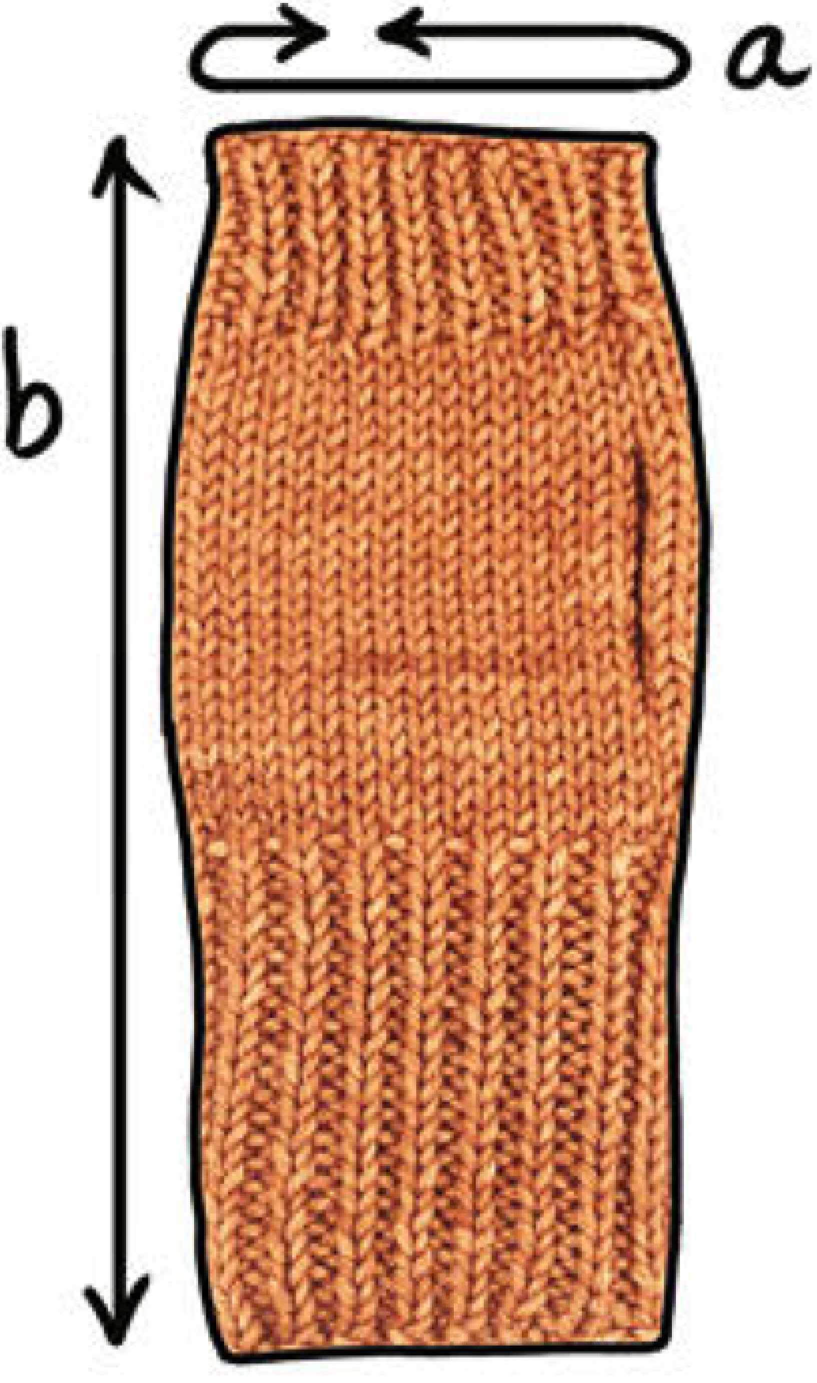
2. Insert the right-hand needle into the next stitch to knit as normal, but wrap with the new yarn. Draw the needle through to make a stitch.

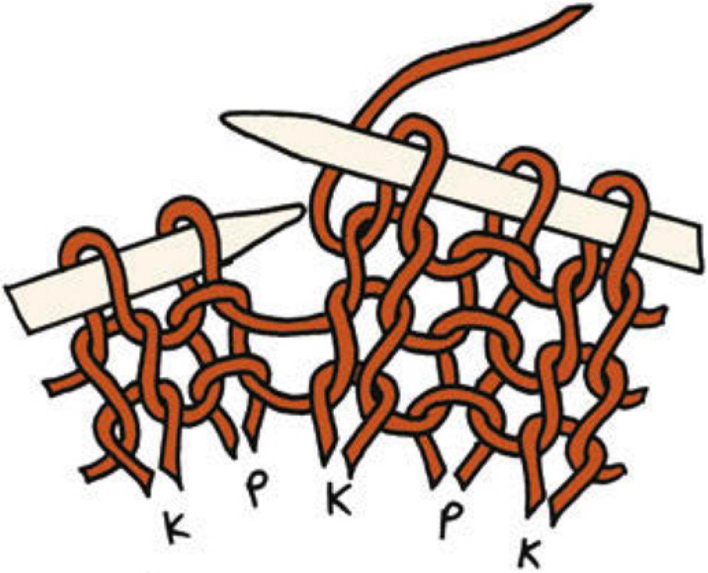
3. Continue knitting with the new yarn, pulling the tail ends to tighten the stitches if necessary. Weave in loose ends at the end of your project, twisting the old and new yarns over each other to prevent a hole.

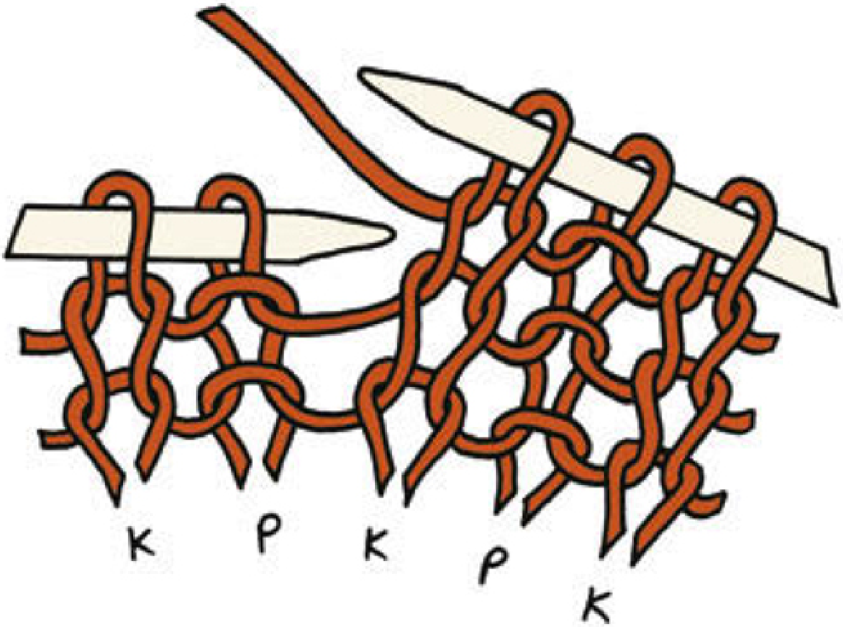
project 1

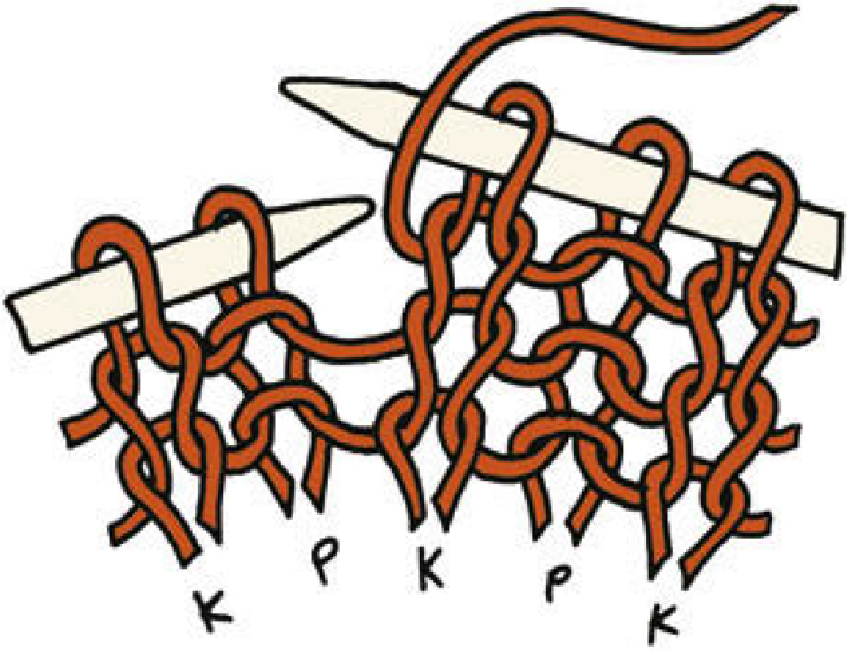
CECELIA

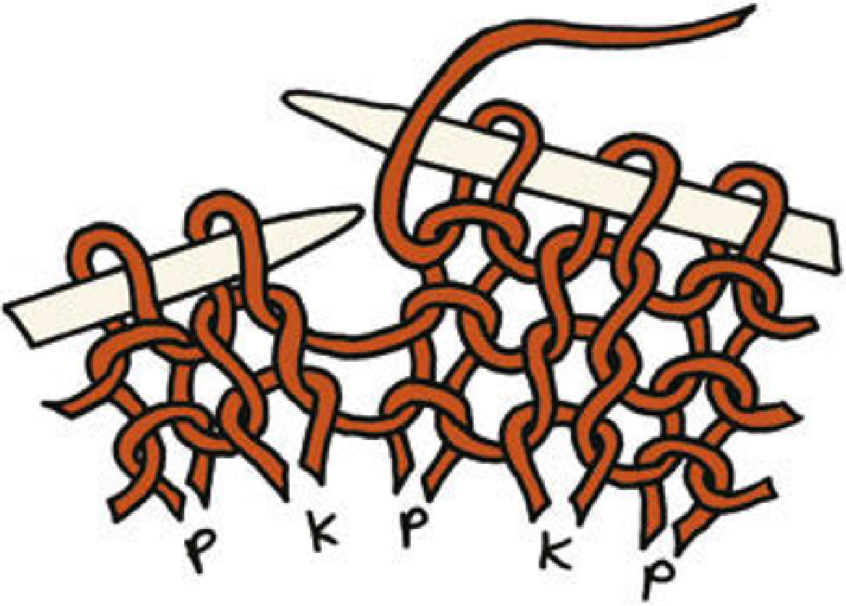
Fingerless Mitts

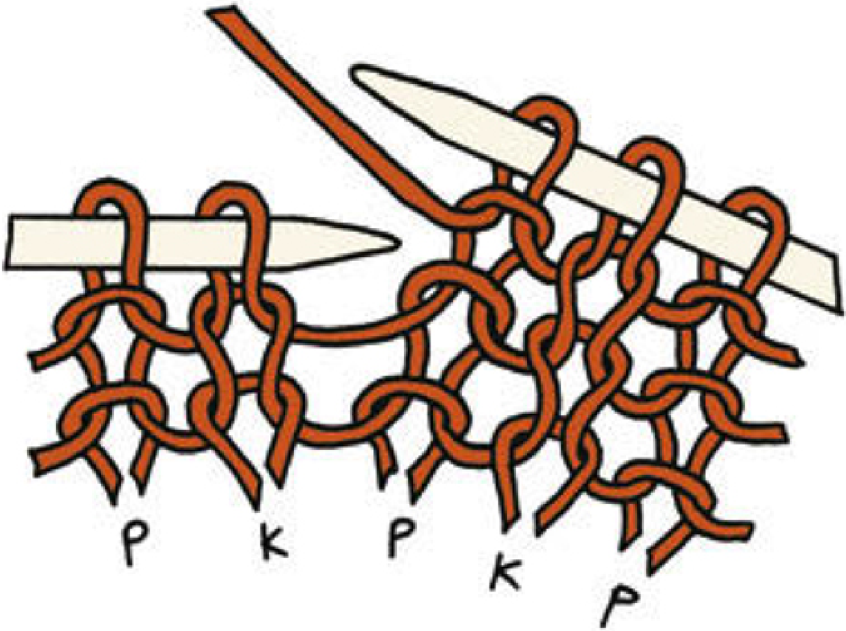

a
b

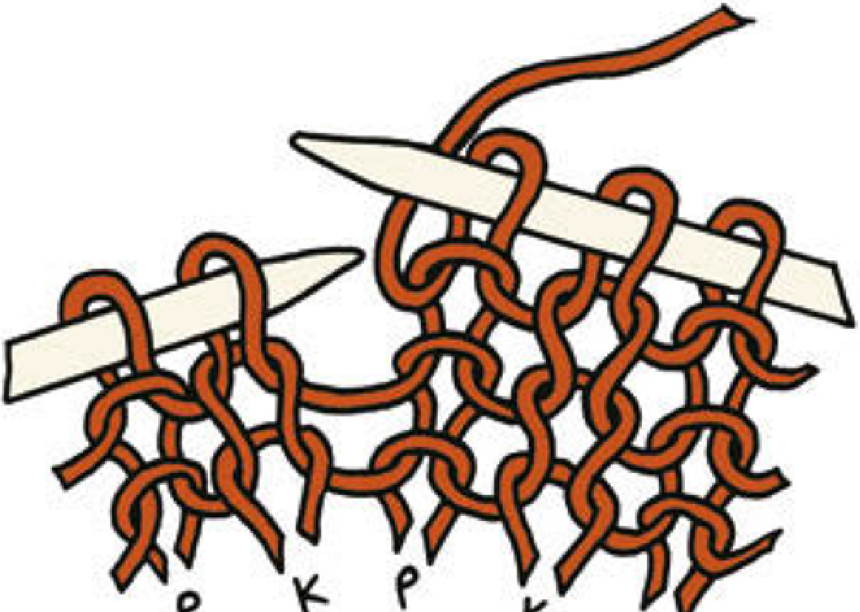

K
P
K
P
K


K
P
K
P
K


K
P
K
P
K


P
K
P
K
P


P
K
P
K
P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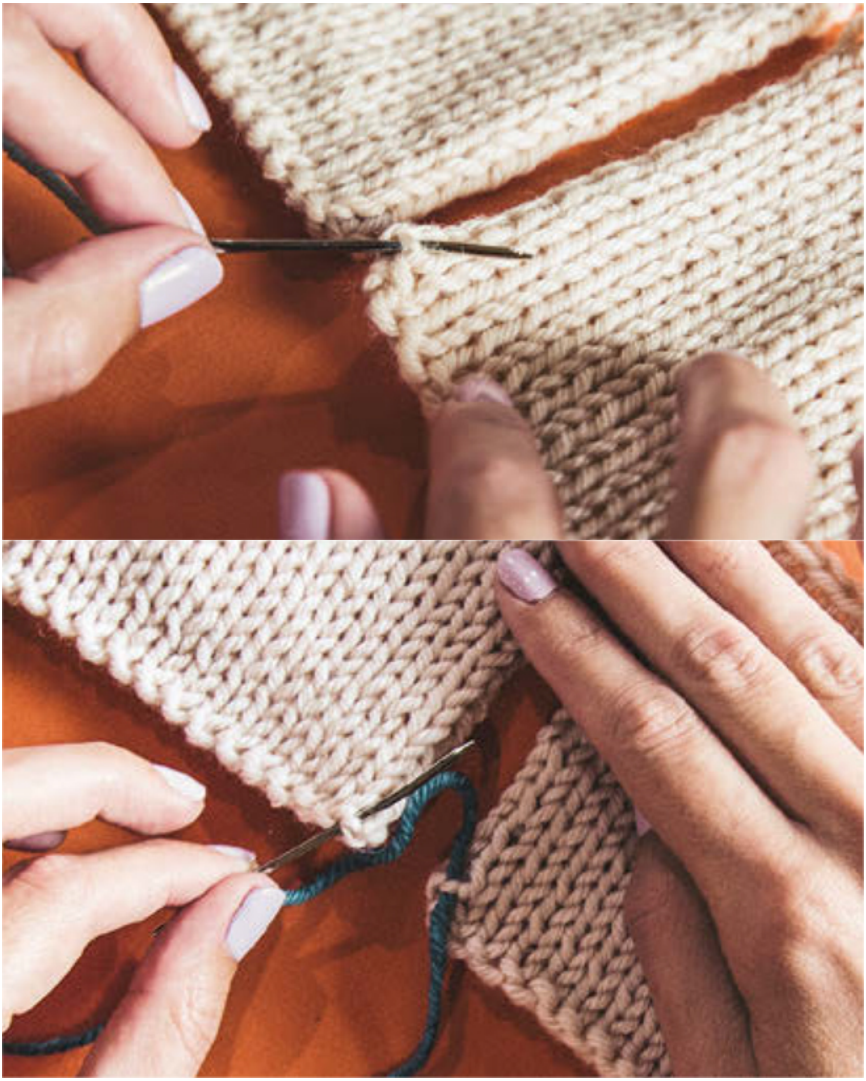
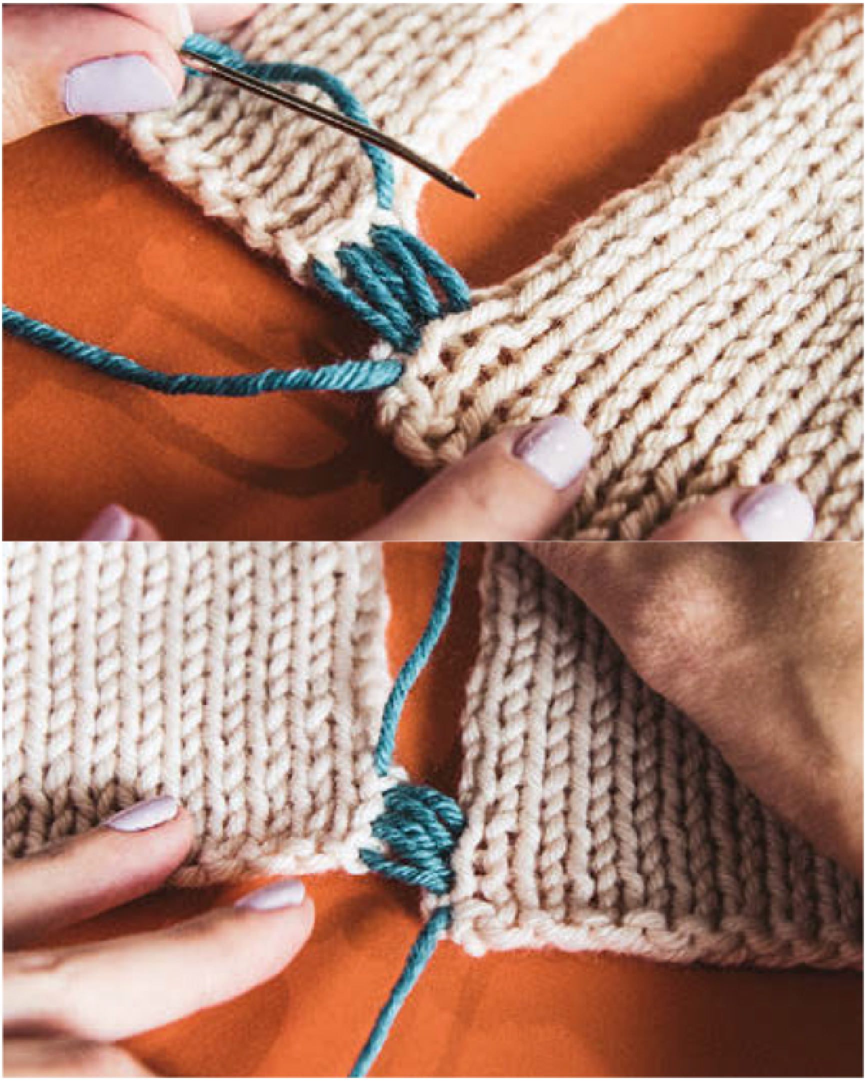
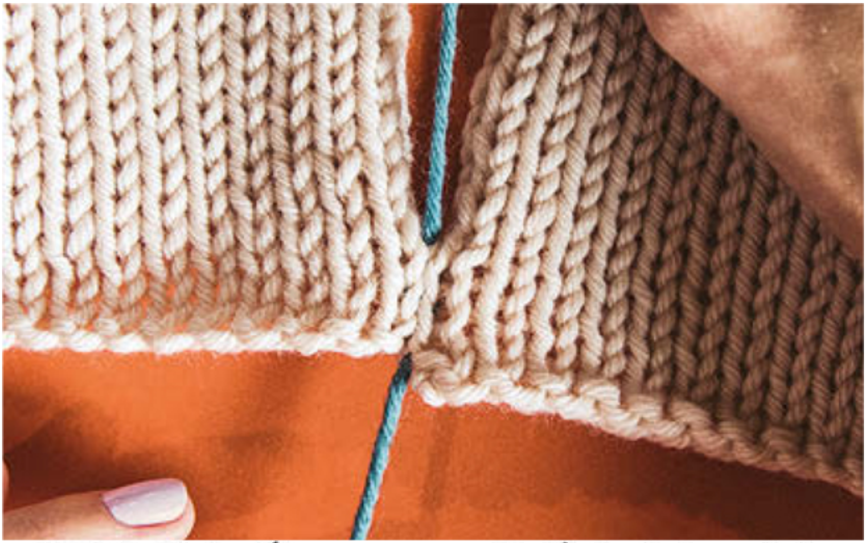
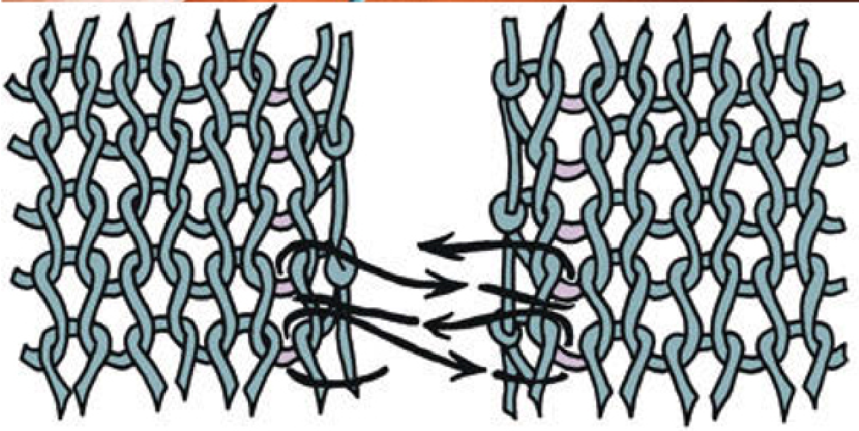
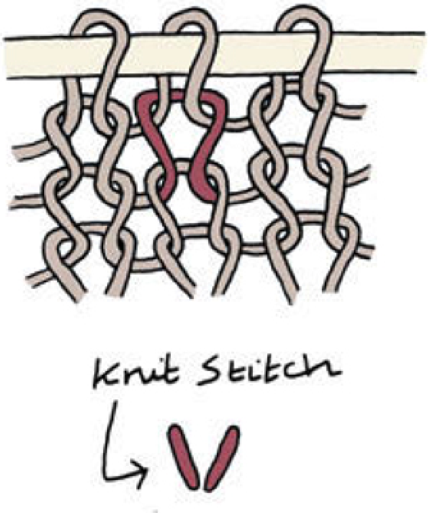
K
P
K
P

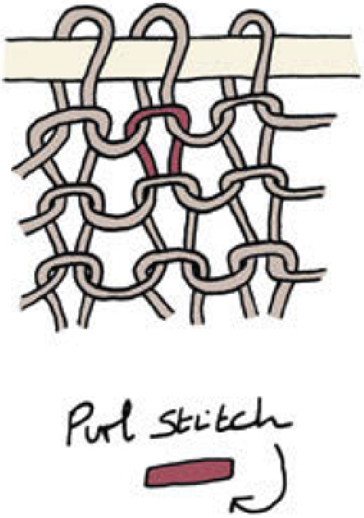


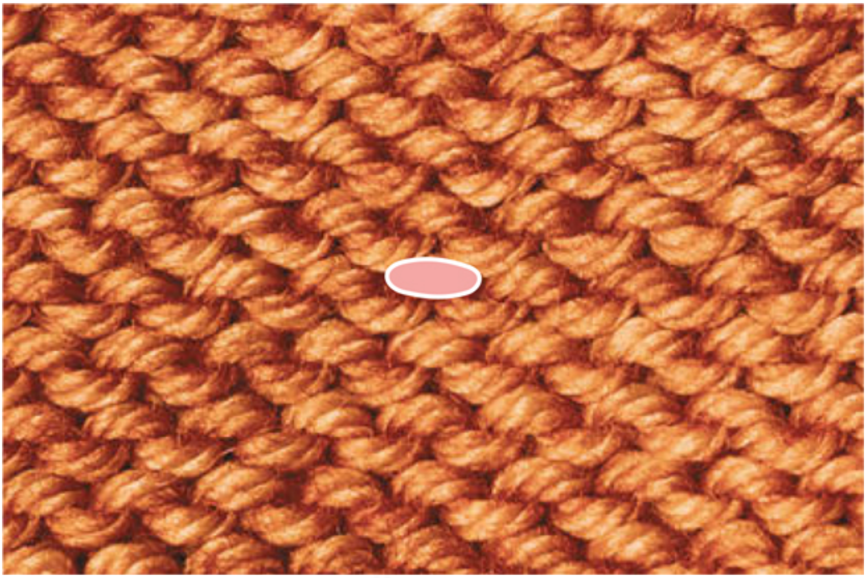


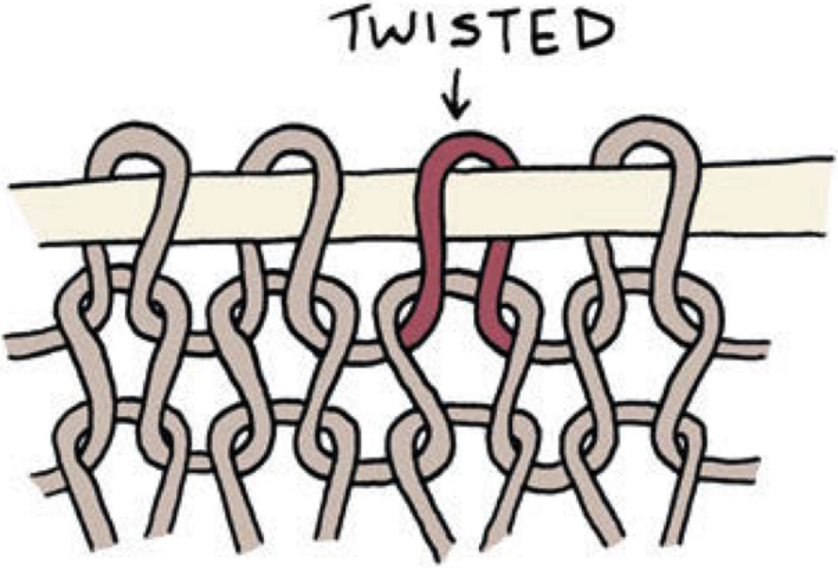





Knit Stitch


Purl Stitch

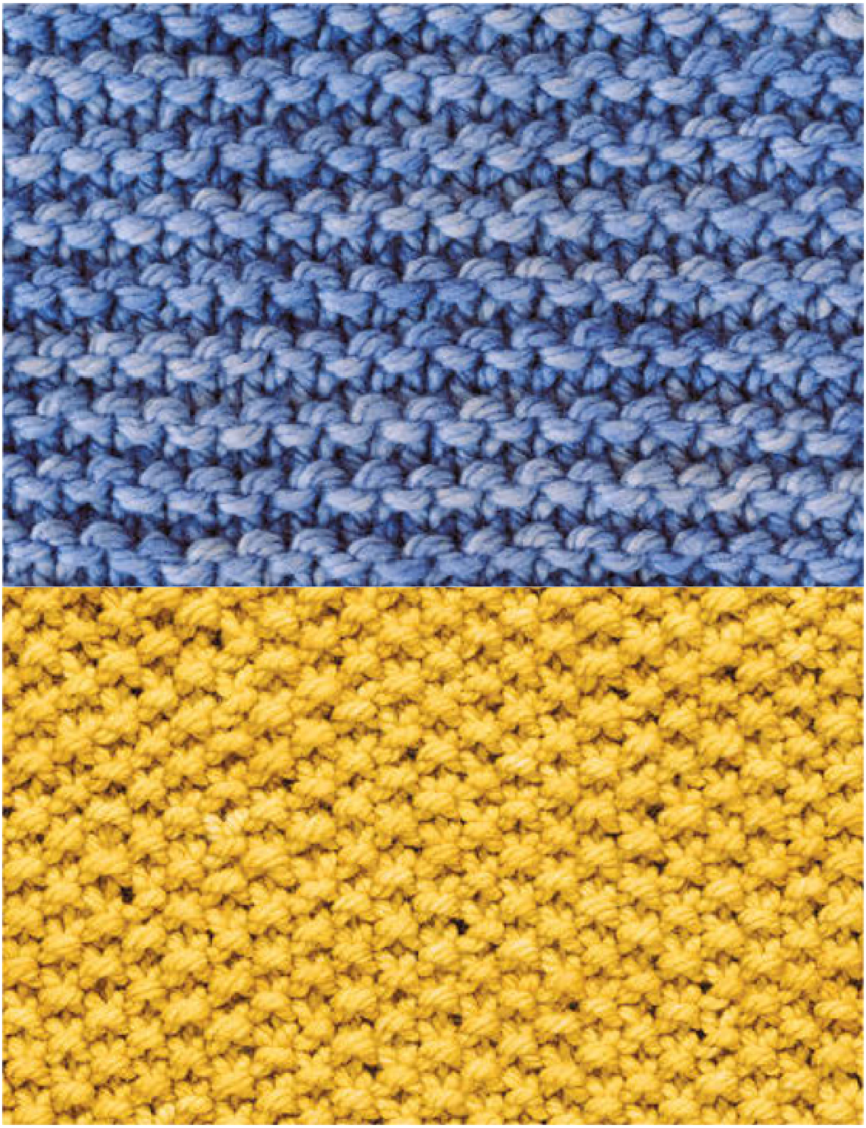


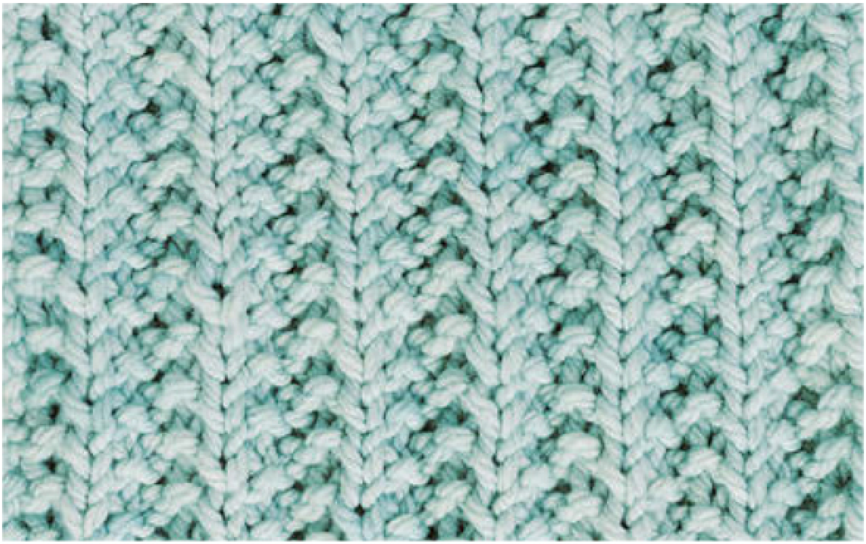


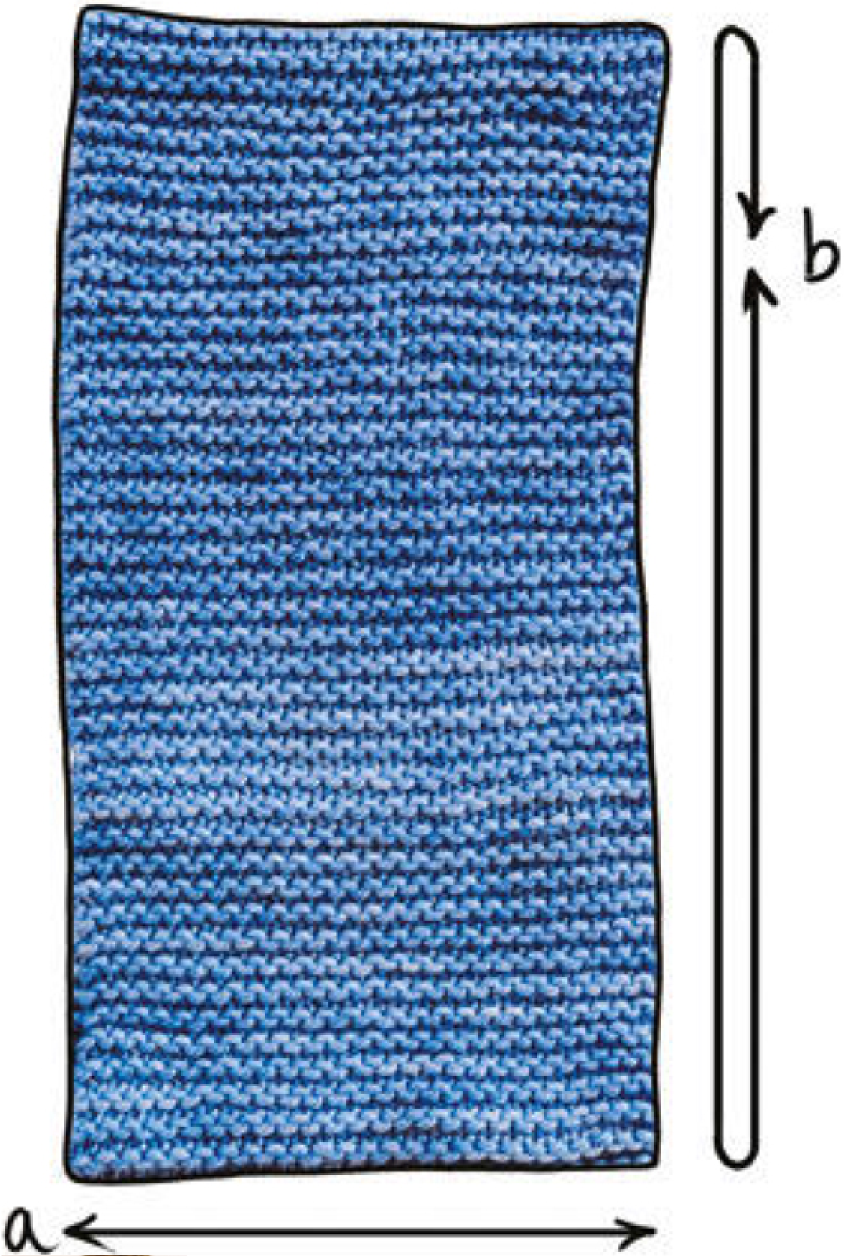
project 2

**MARY
BOBBY
JUJU**

Simple Cowls in
Three Stitch Patterns



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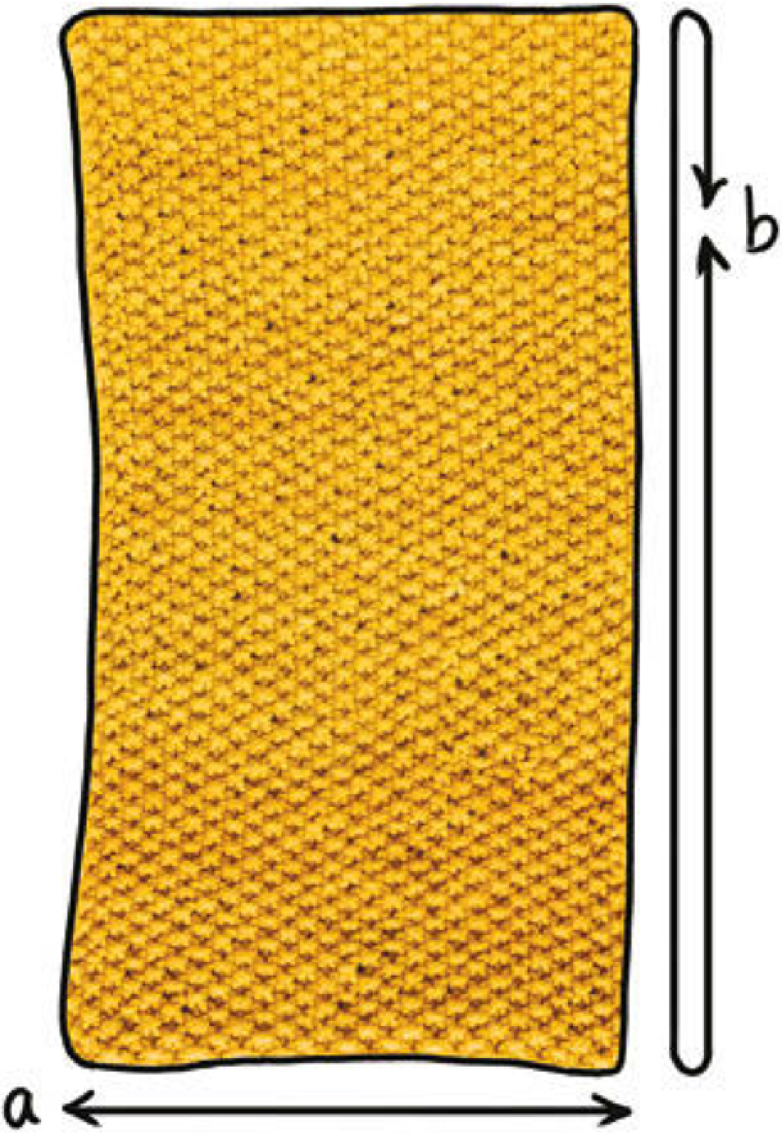
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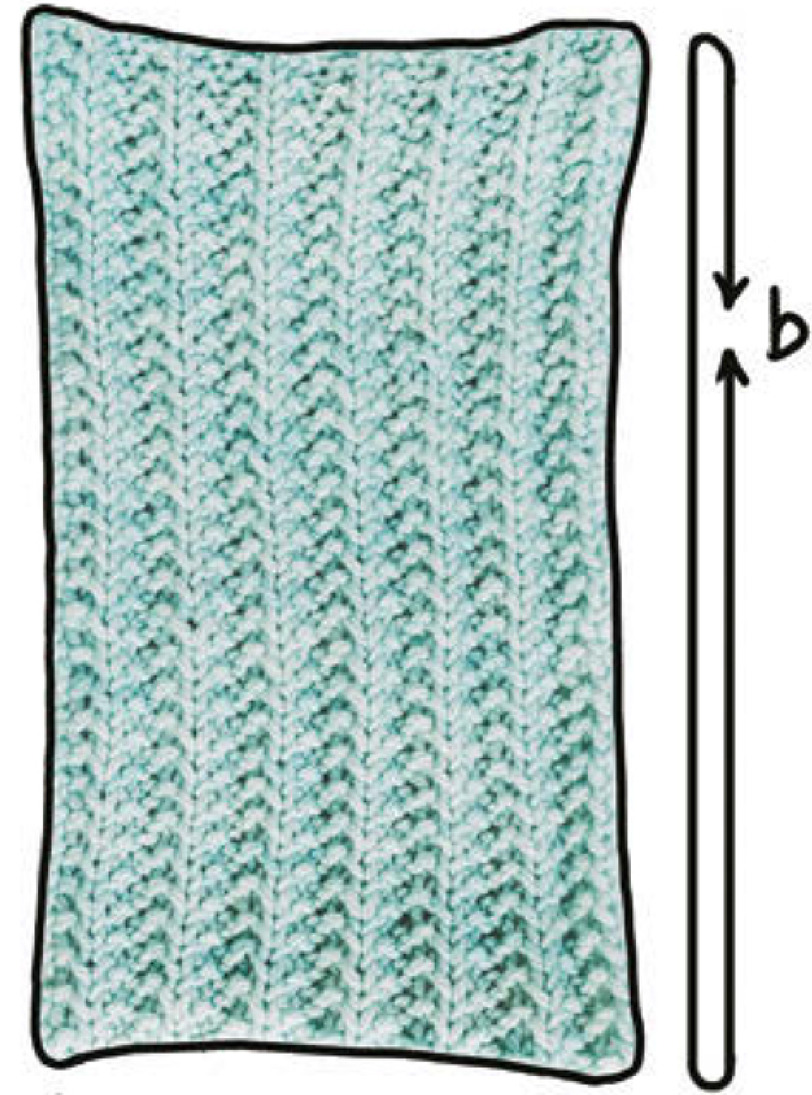
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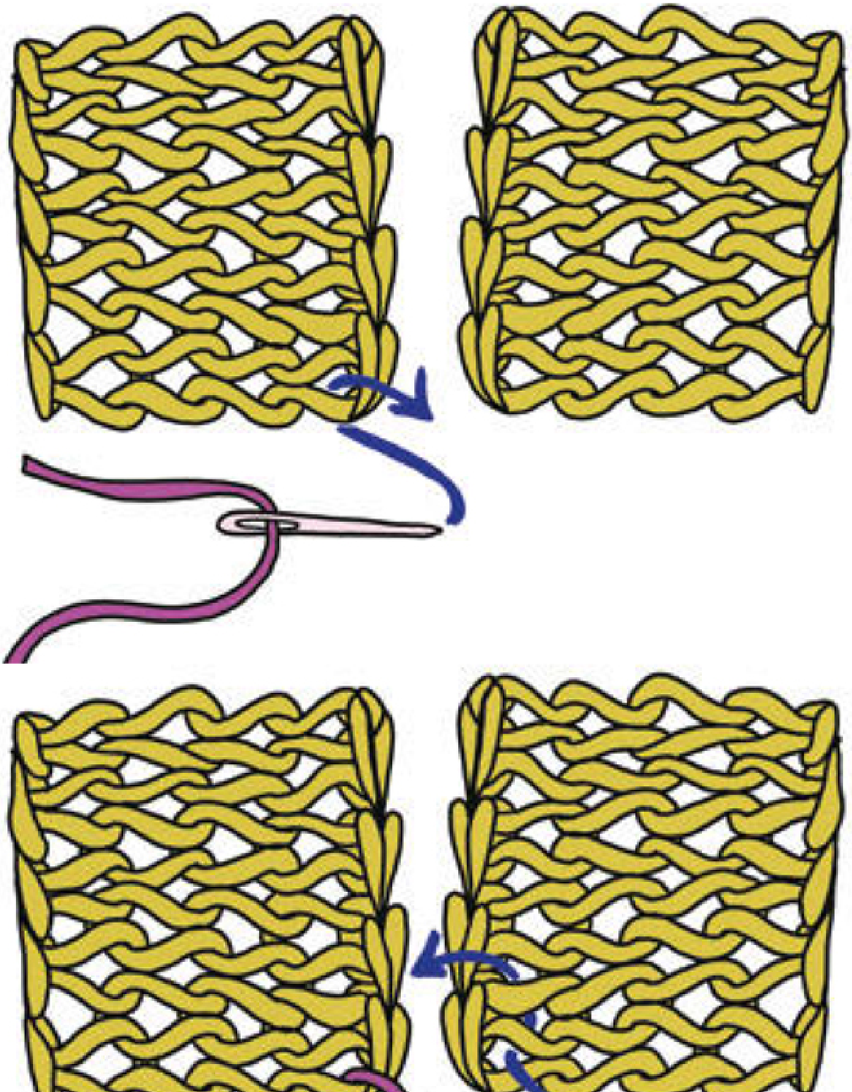
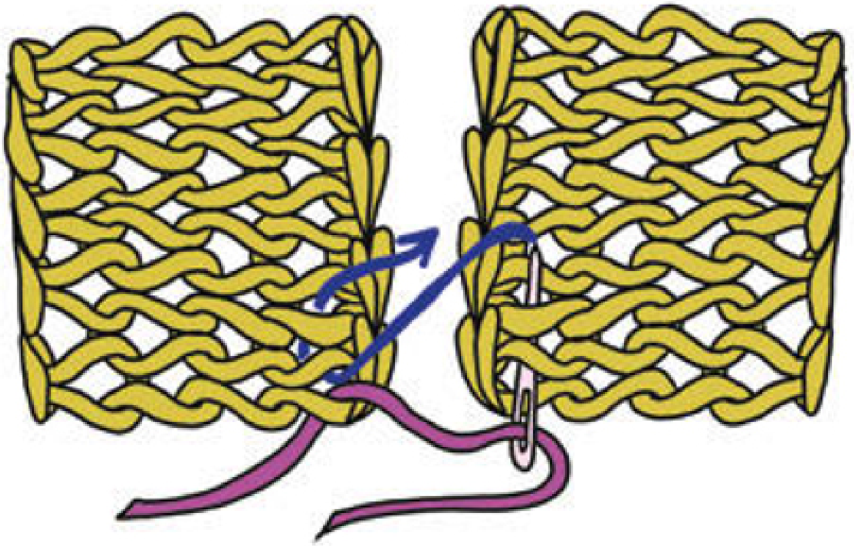
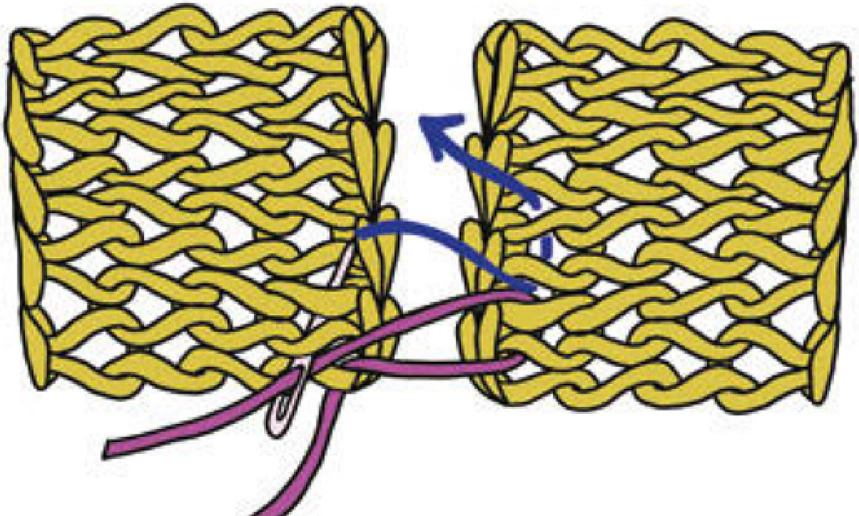
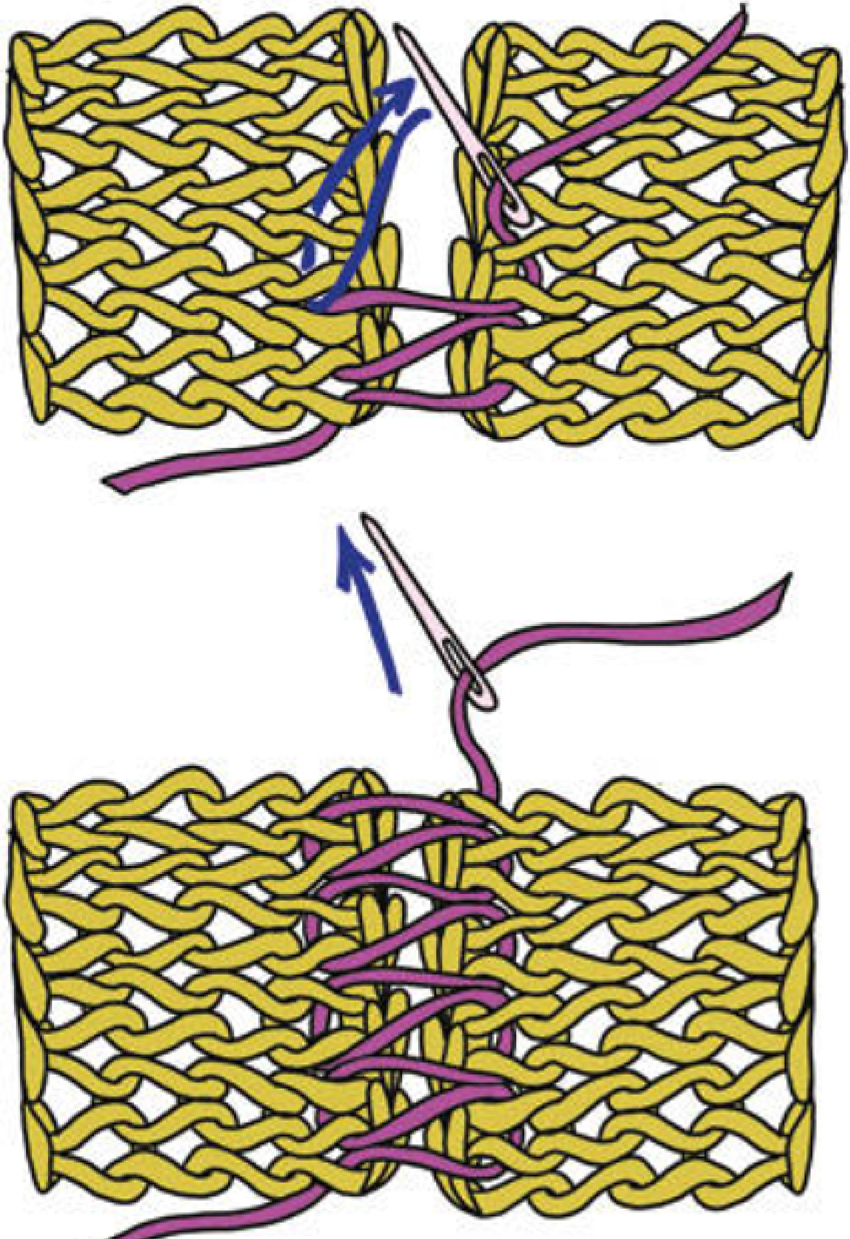
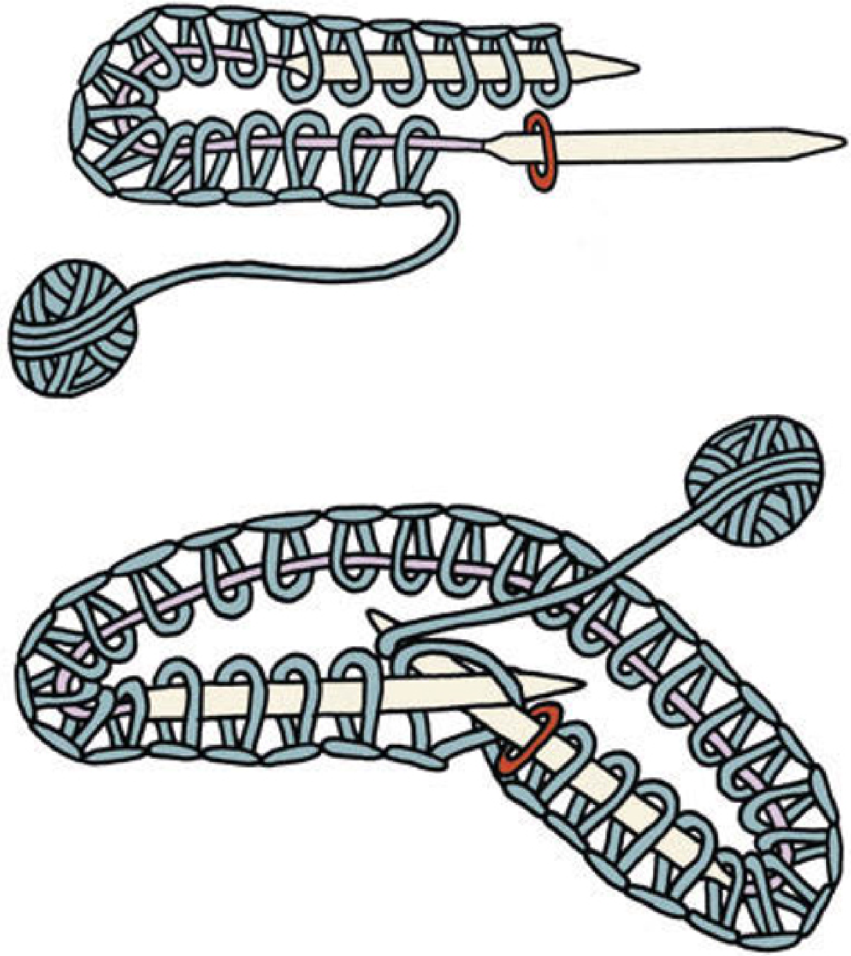
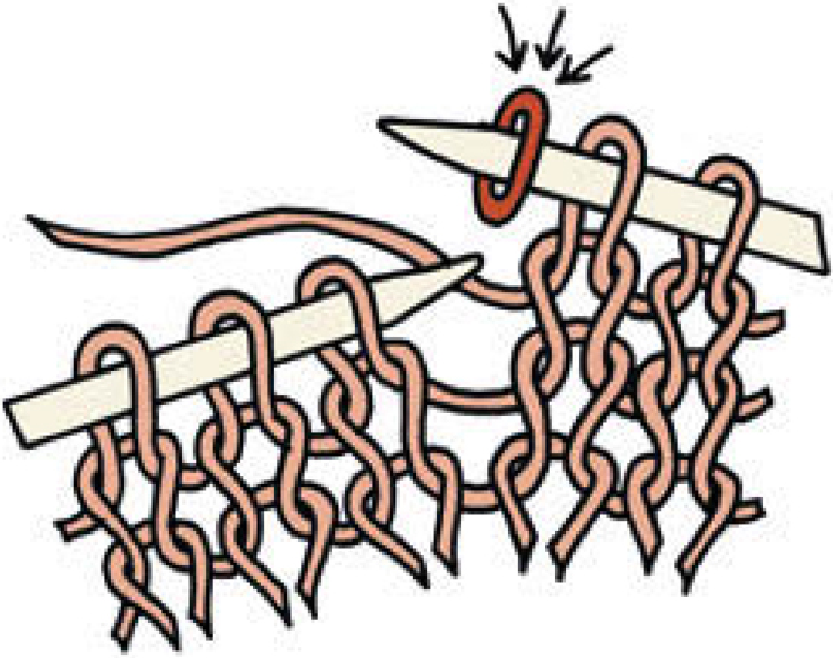


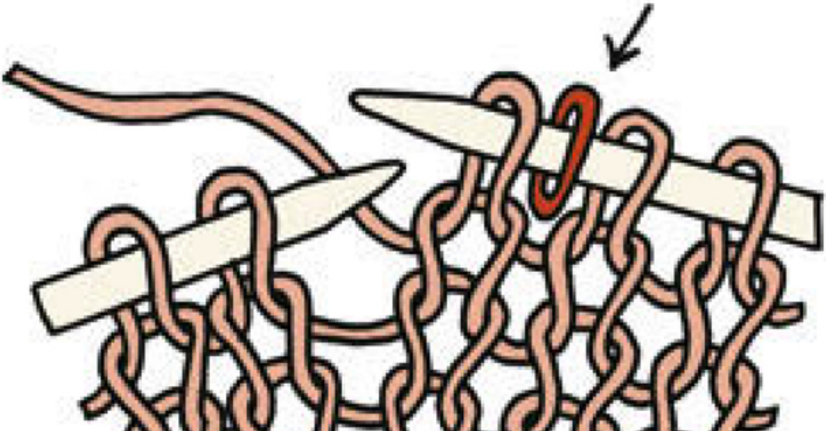


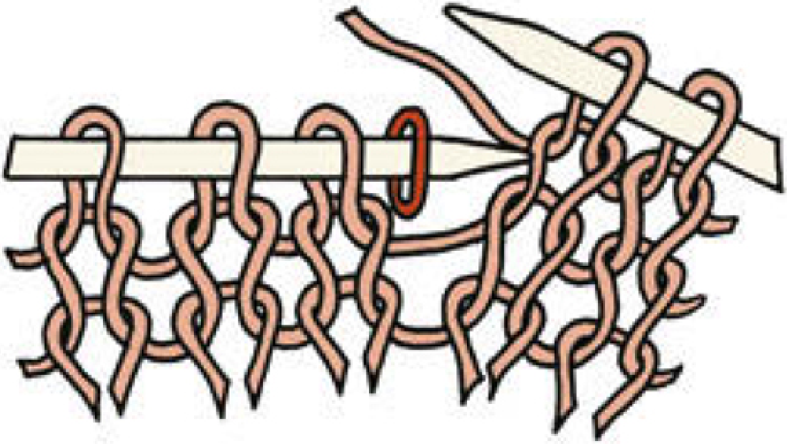


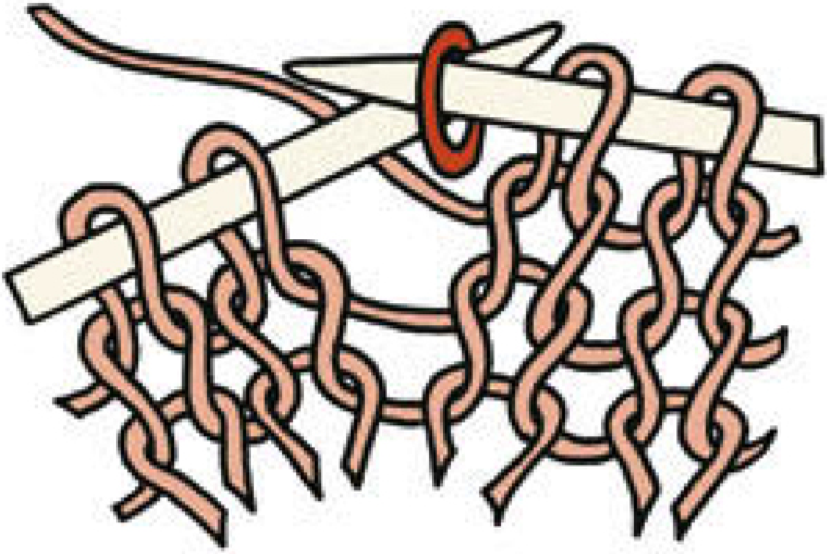


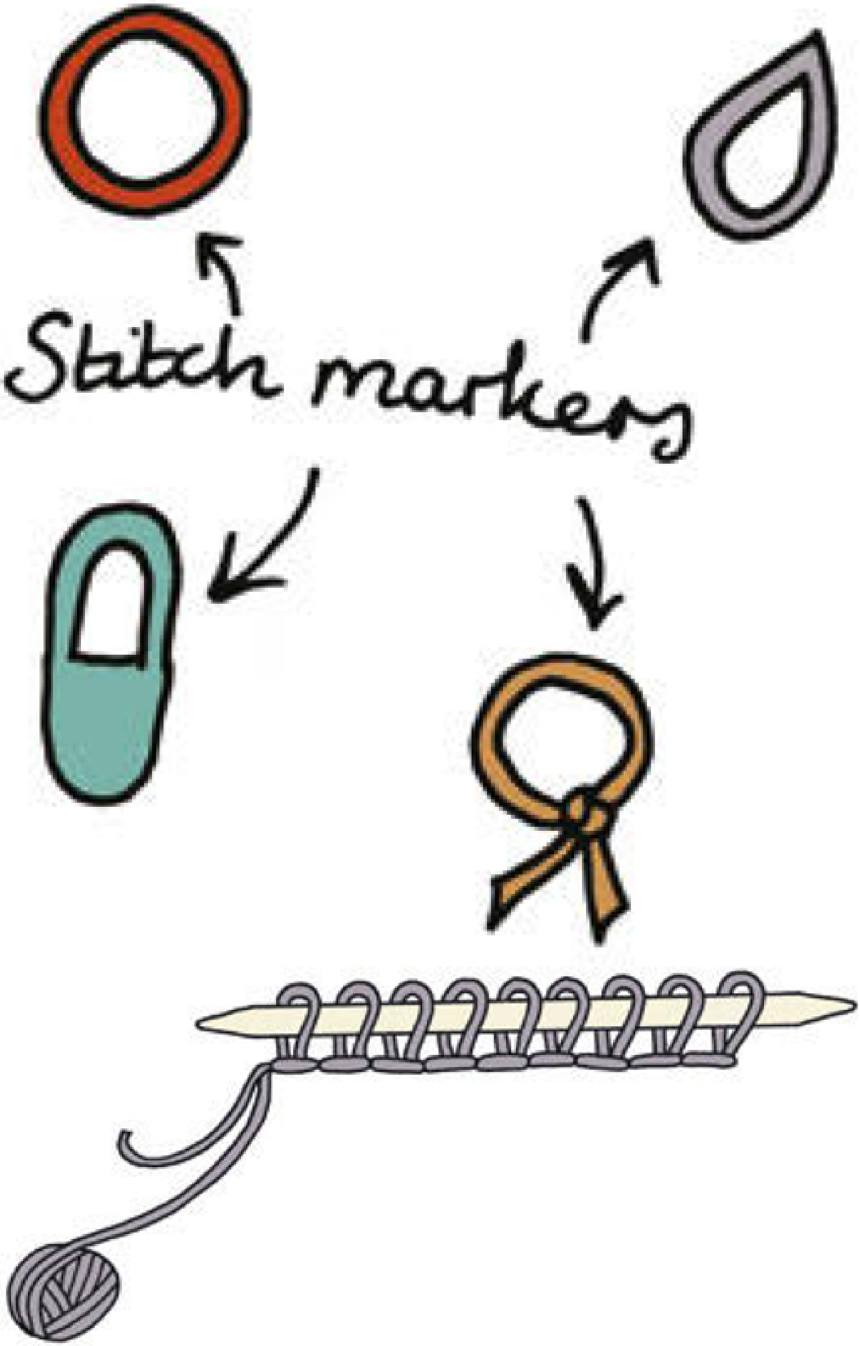


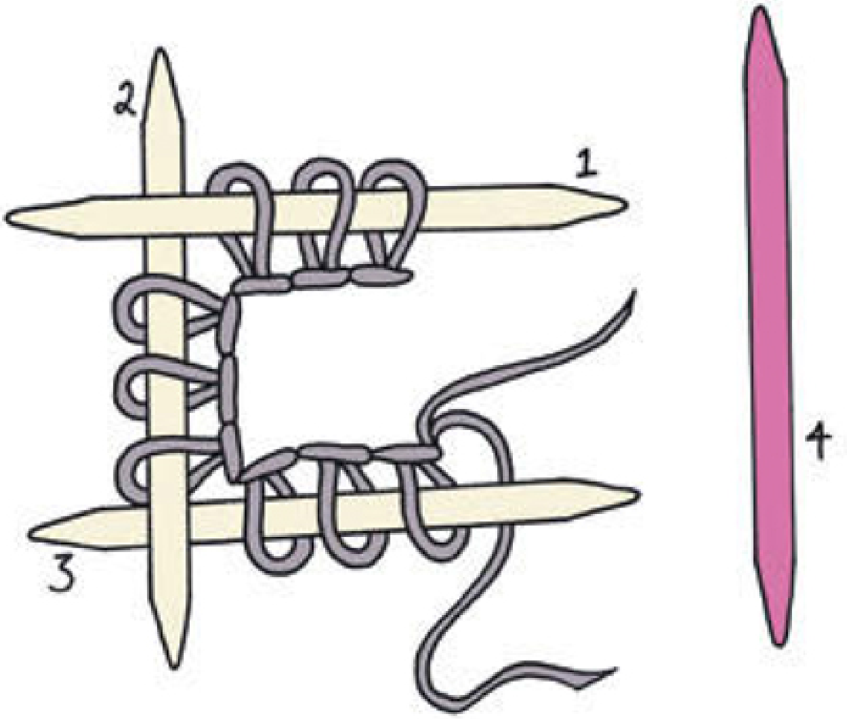









Stitch markers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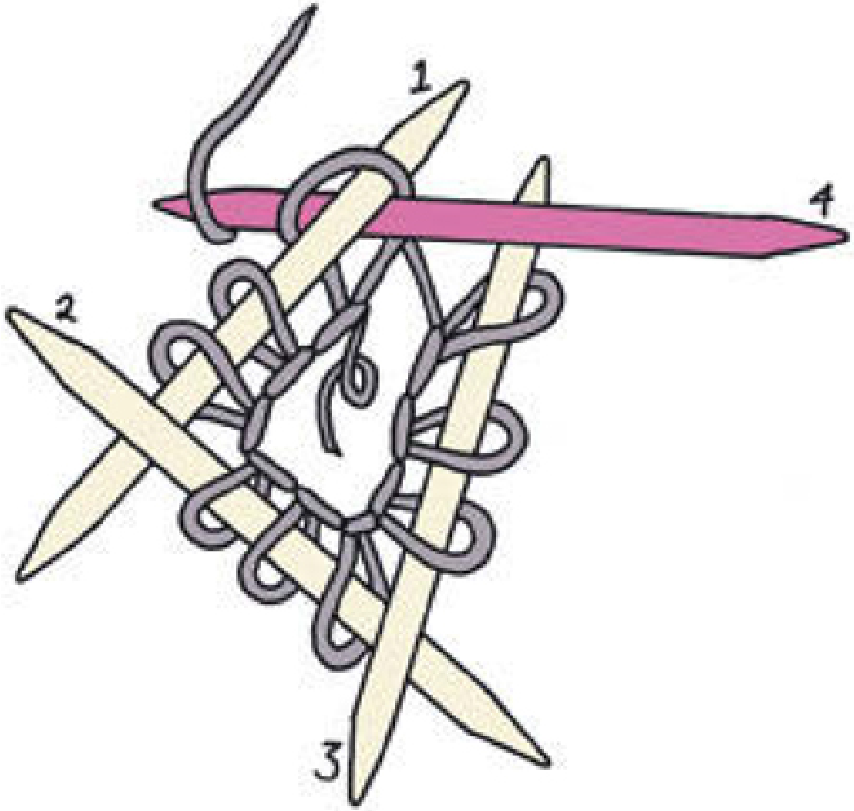
1
4
3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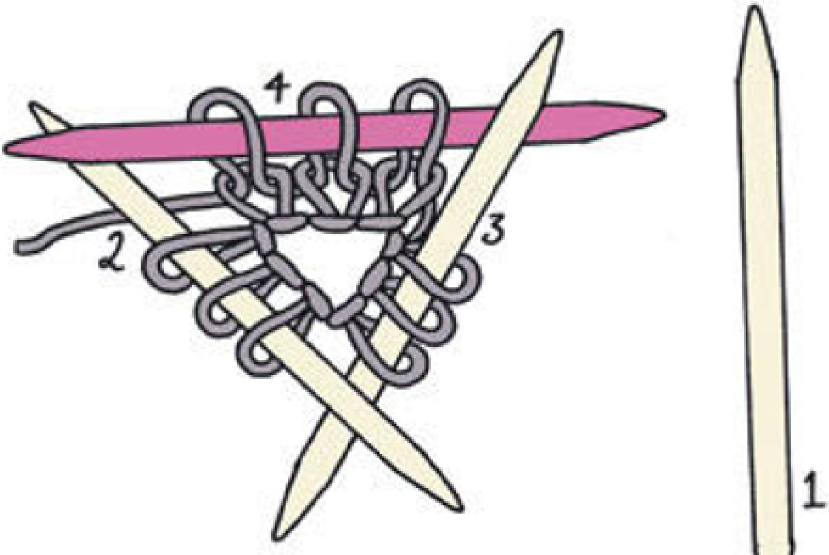
2
3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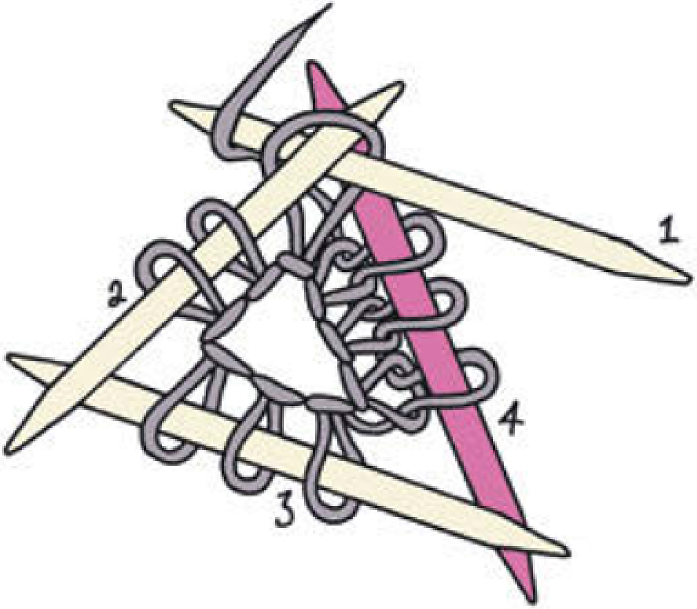
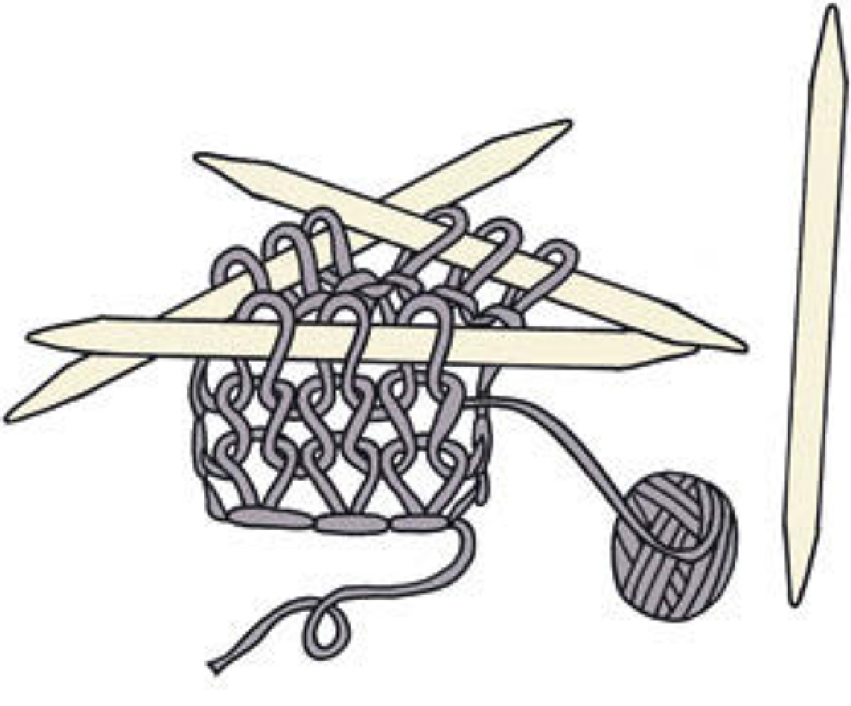
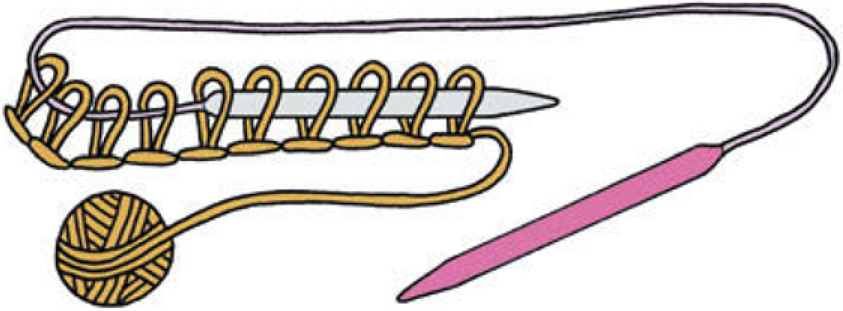
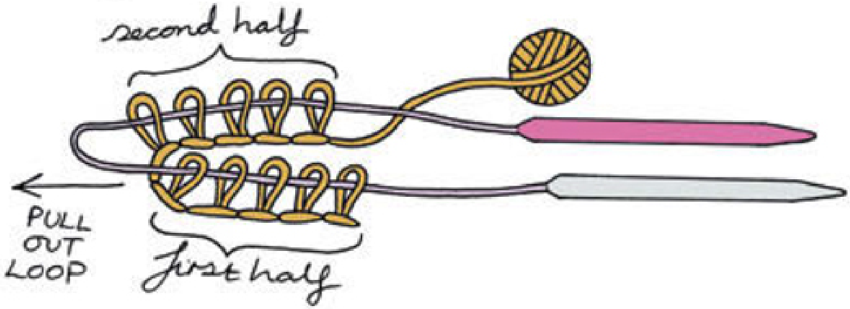
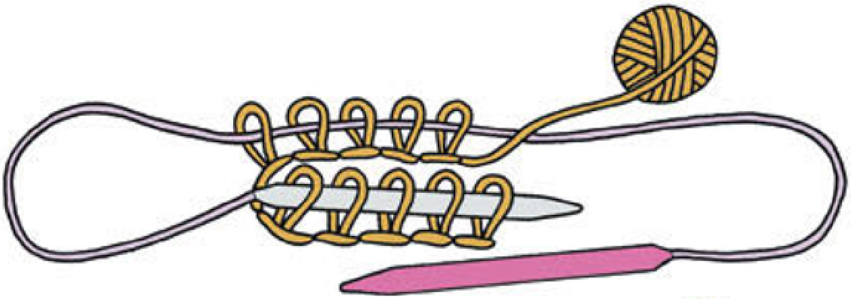
2
3
1

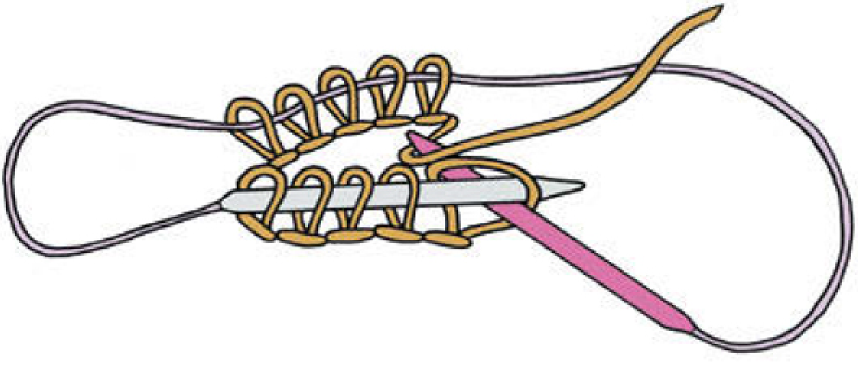

1
2
3
4

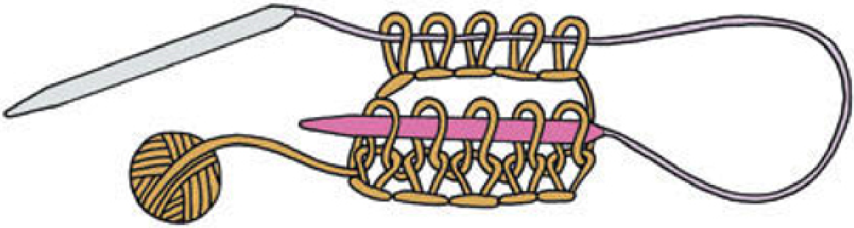


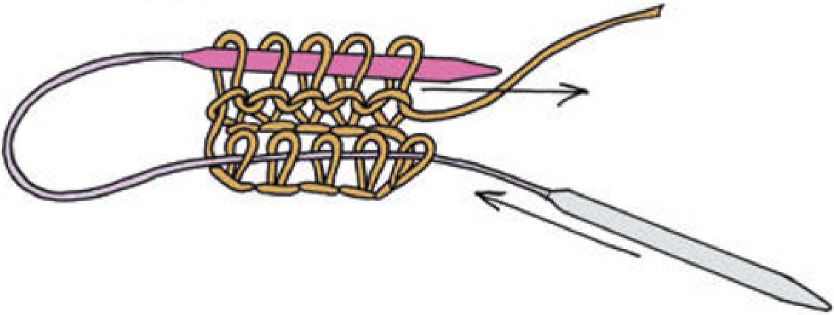


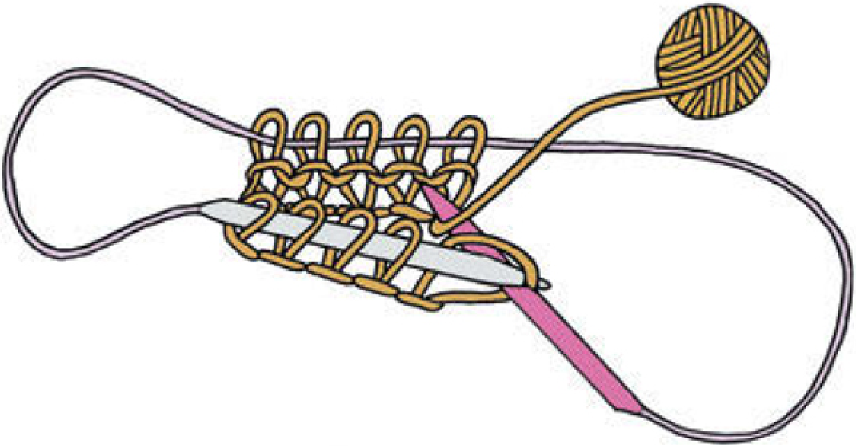

second half
PULL OUT LOOP
first half

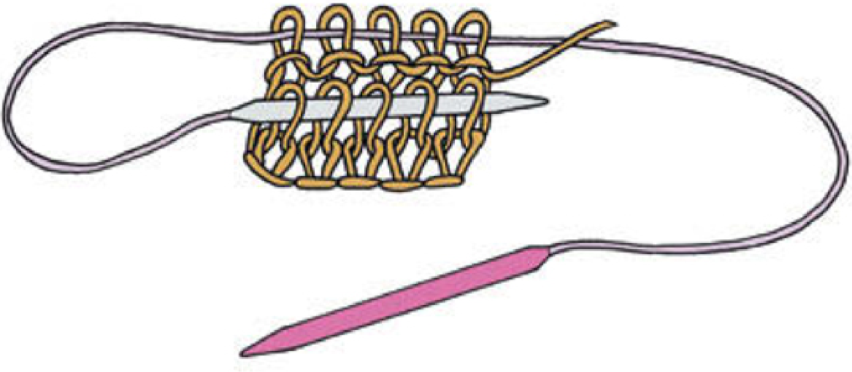








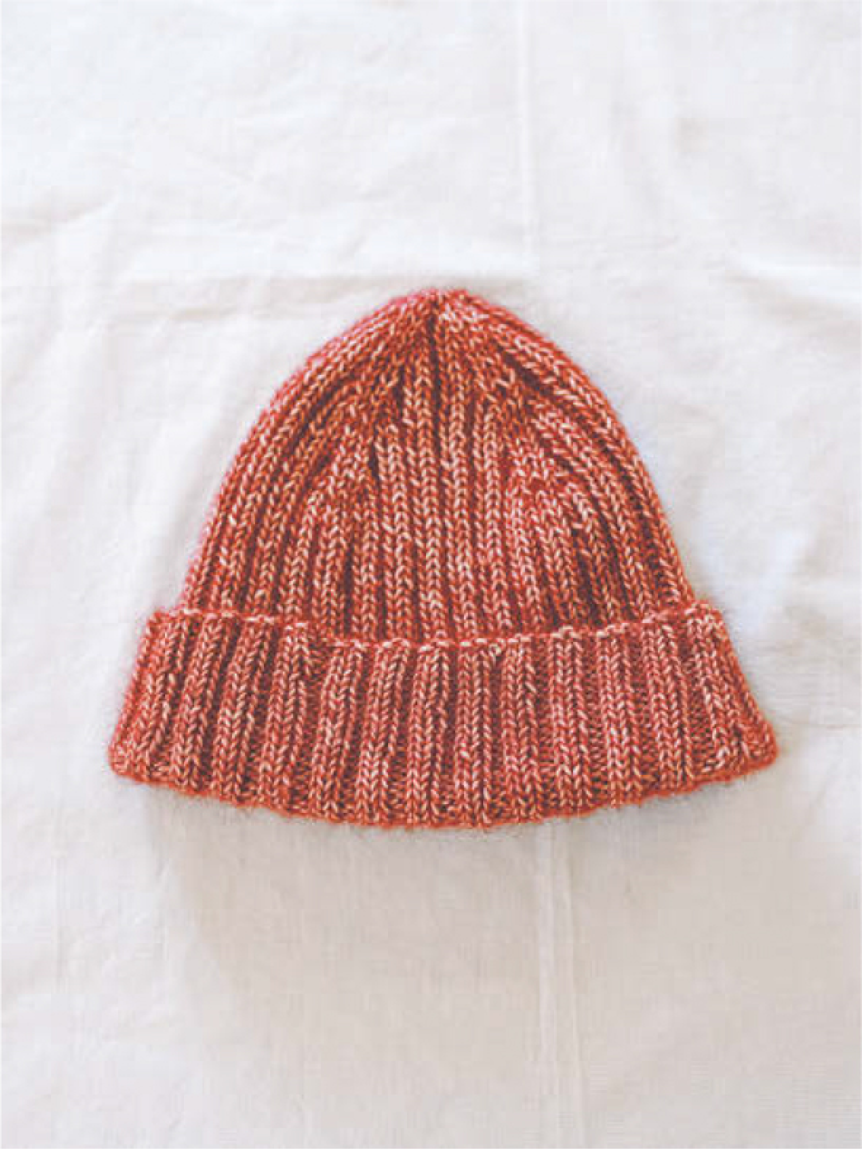


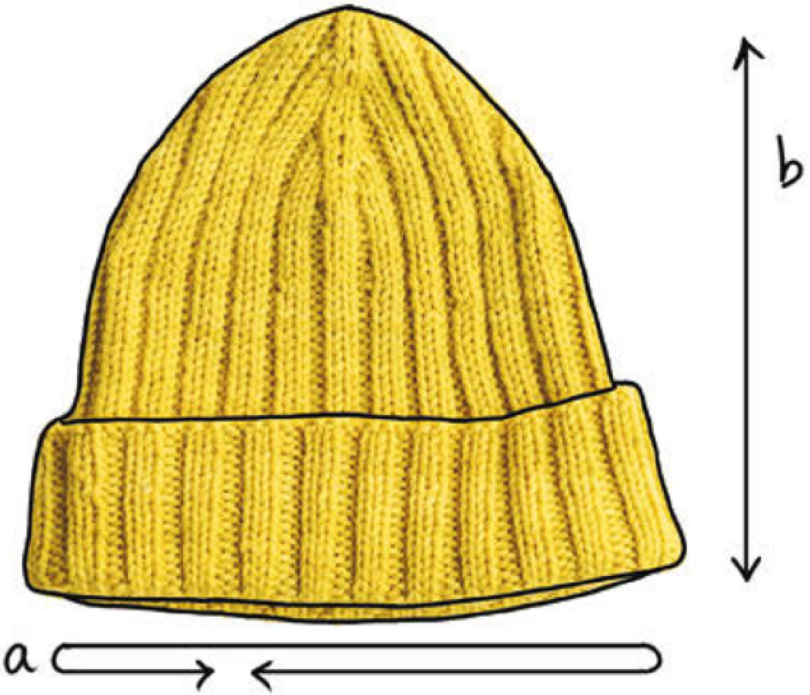


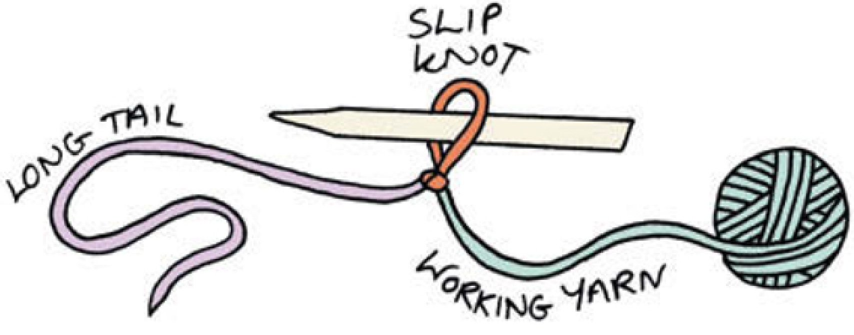
project 3

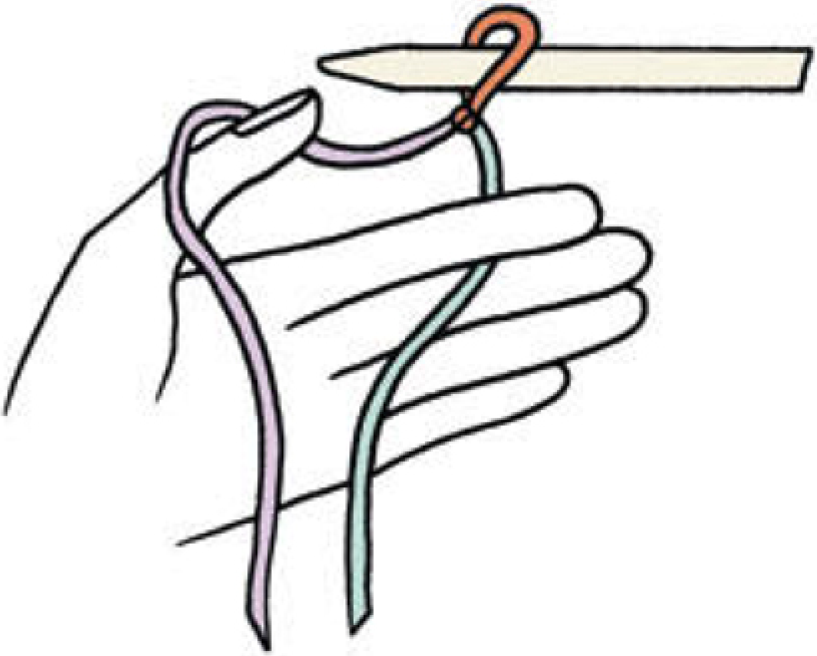
GERALDINE

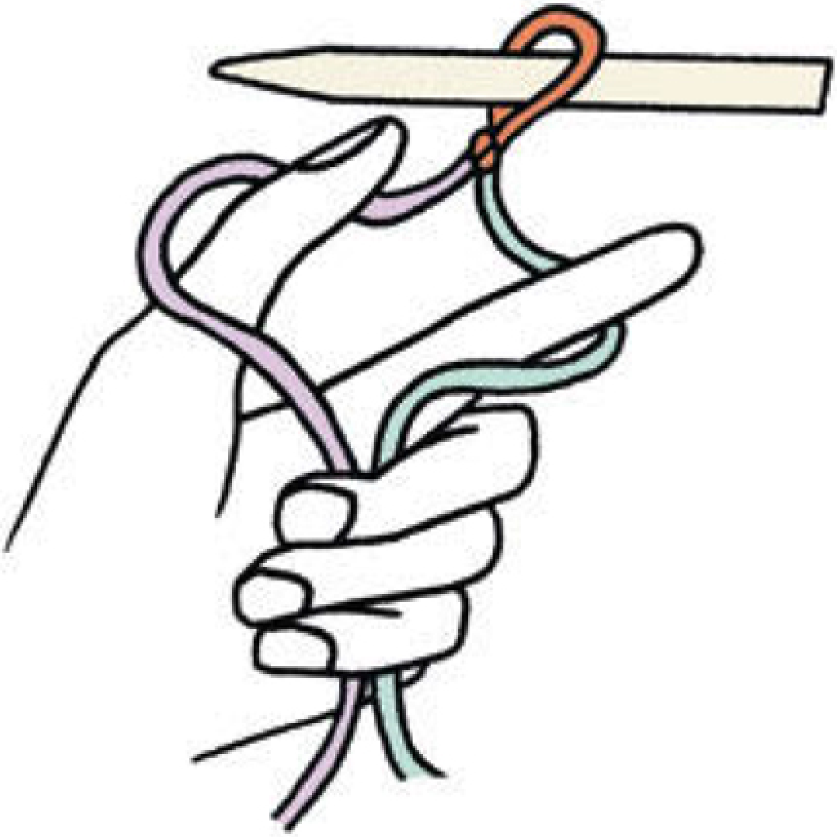
Ribbed Beanie

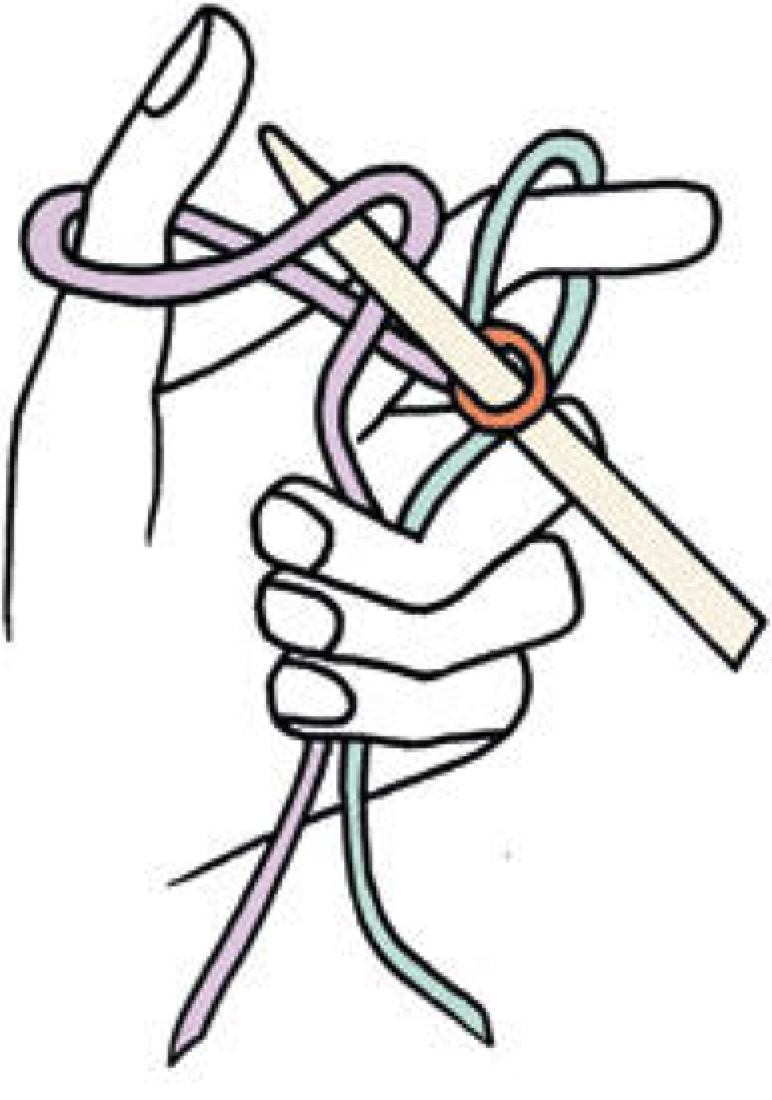


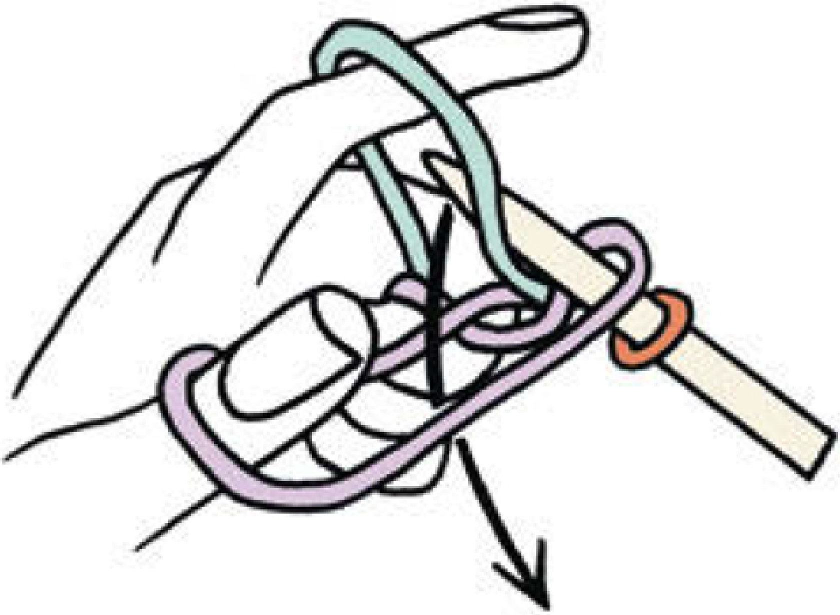

b
a

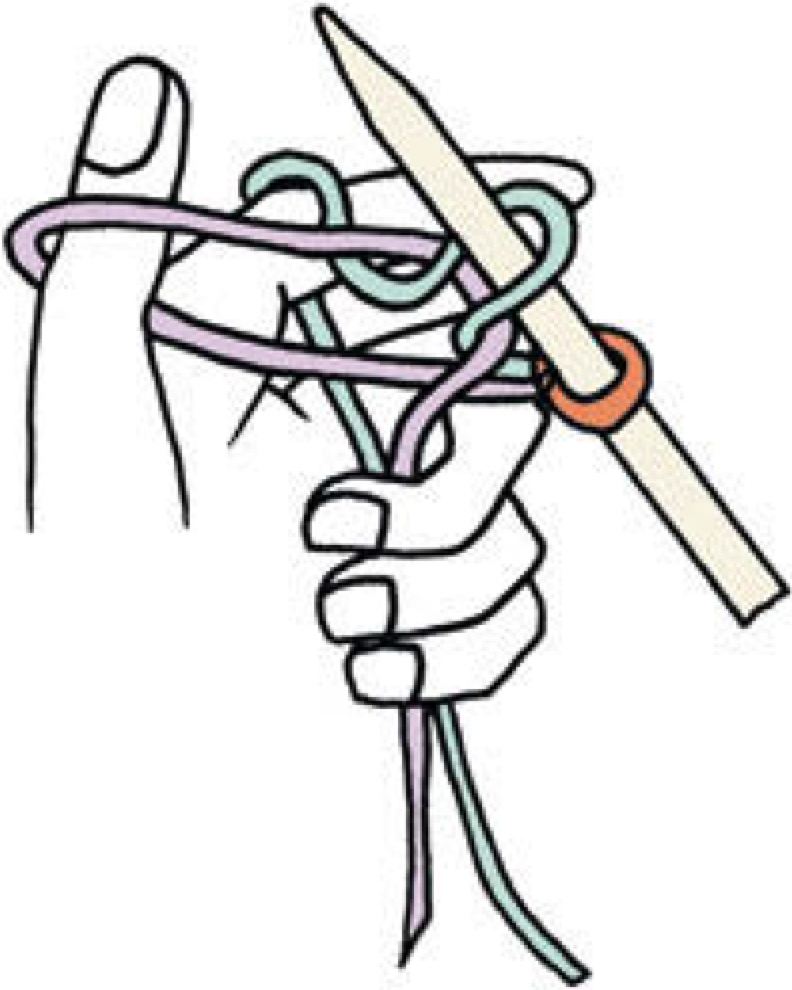

SLIP KNOT
LONG-TAIL
WORKING YARN

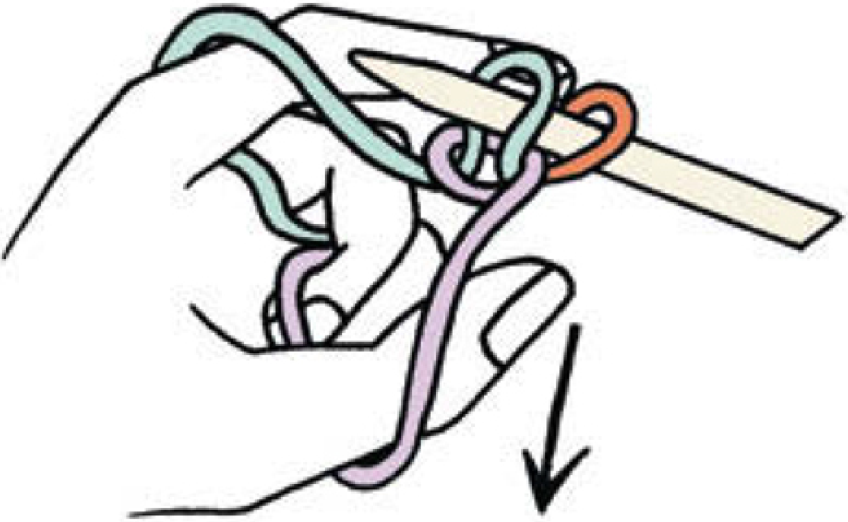


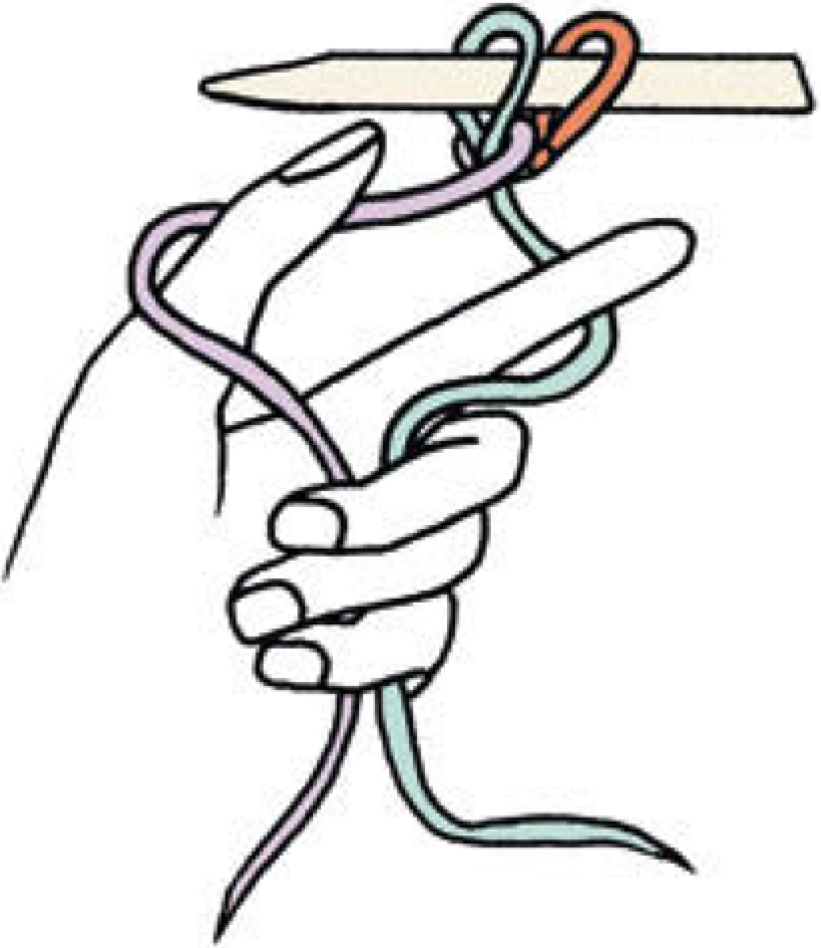


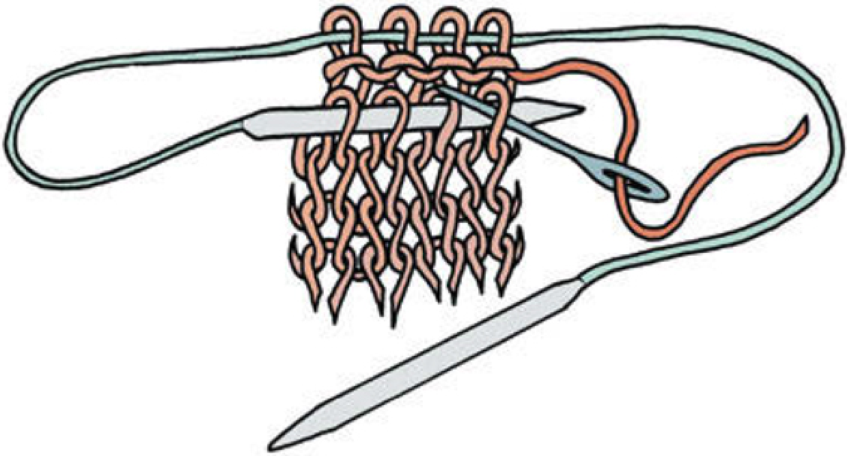


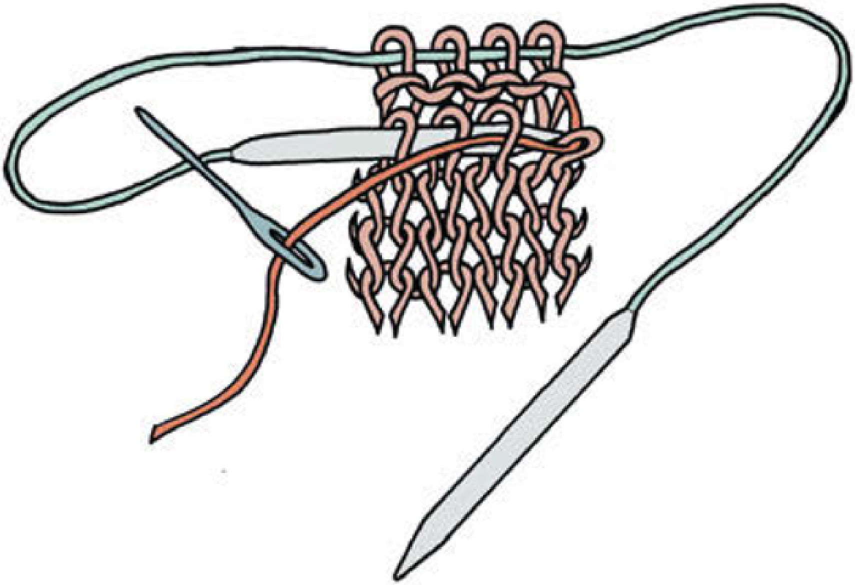


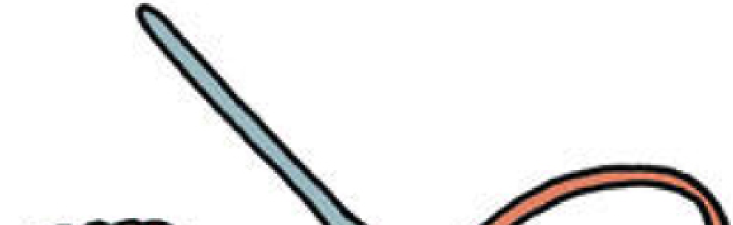


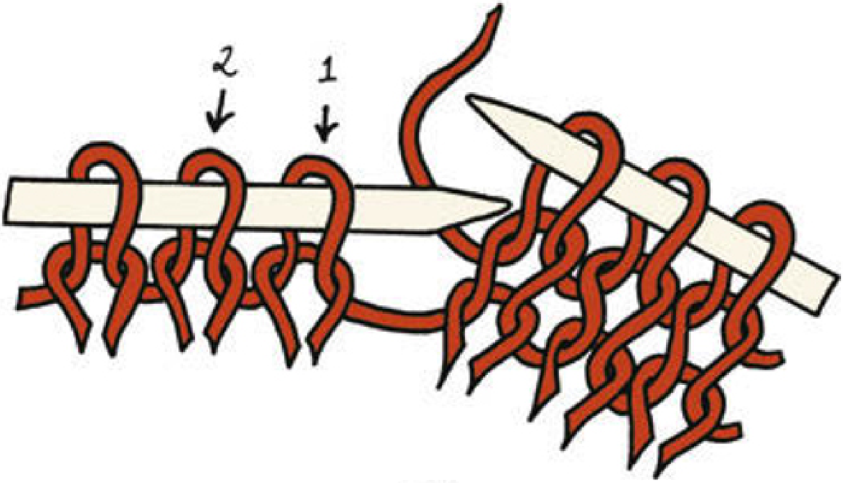








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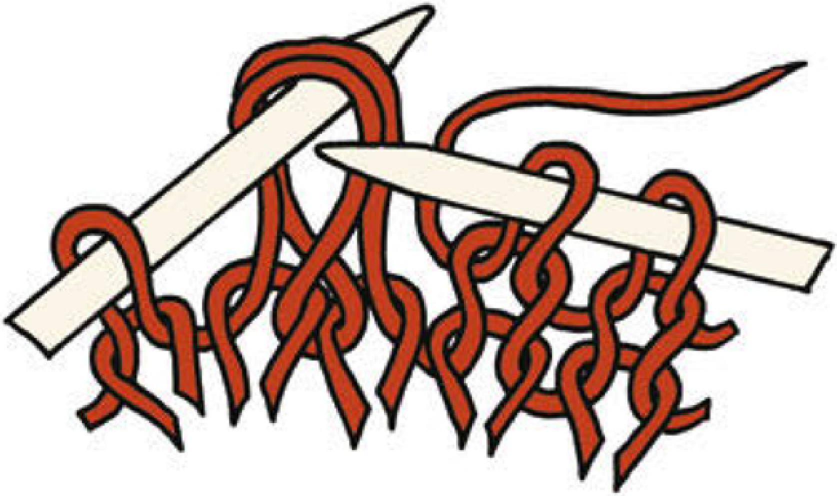

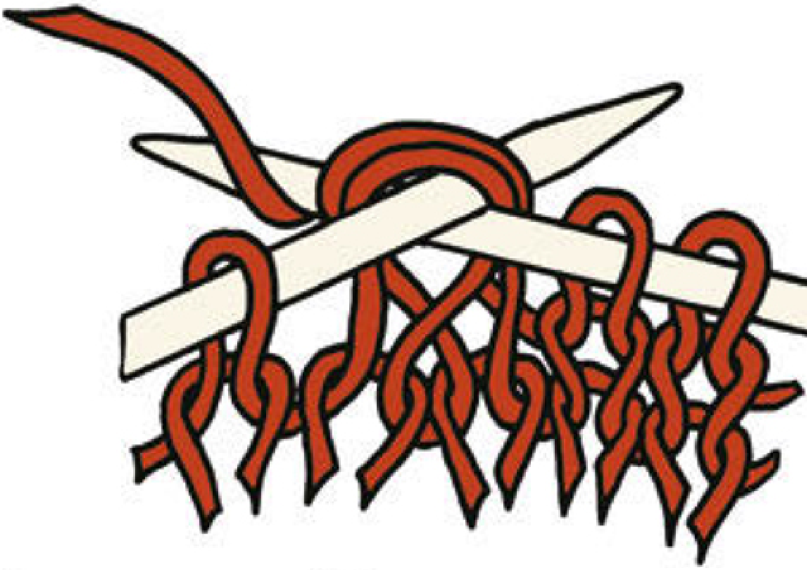

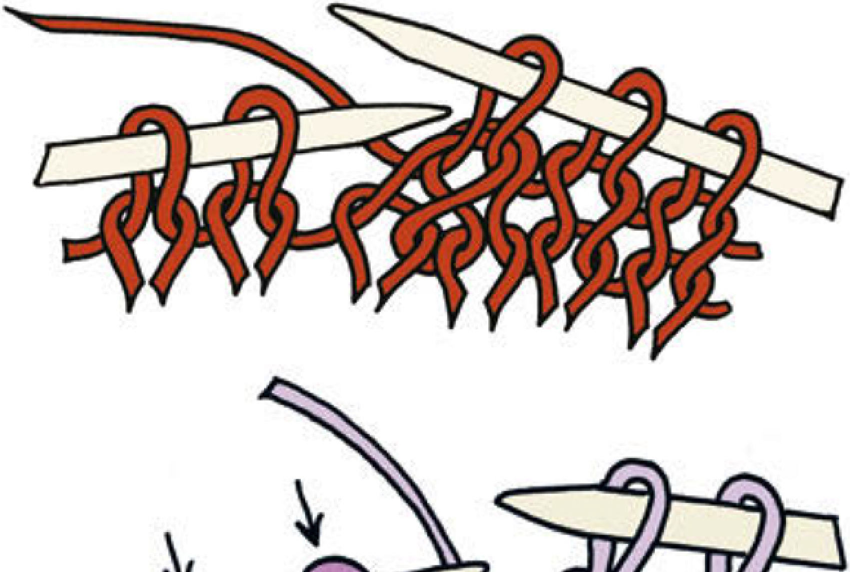

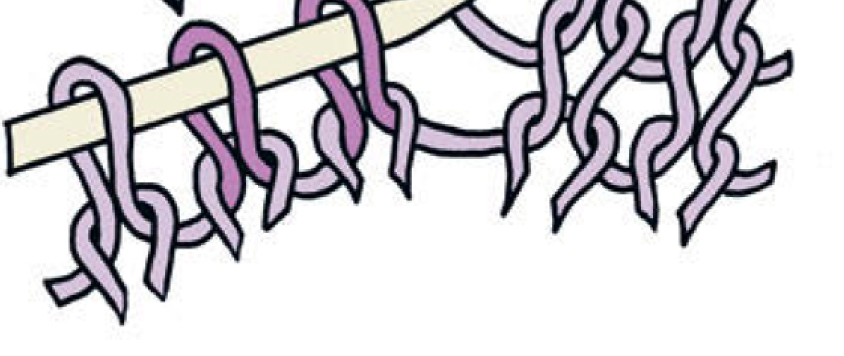

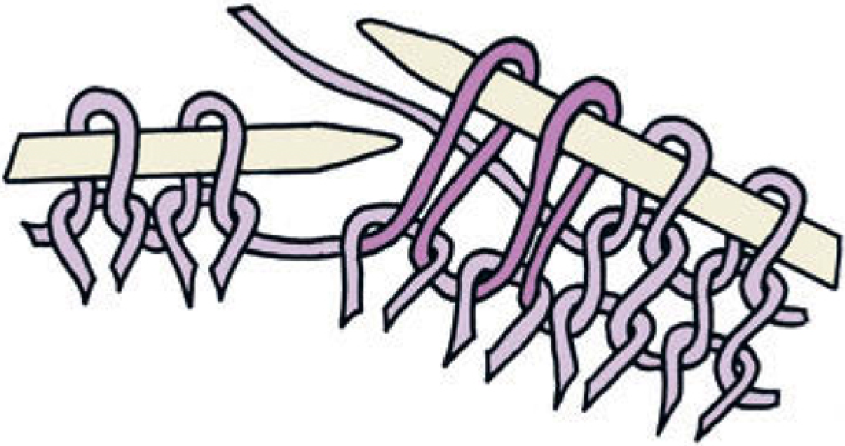

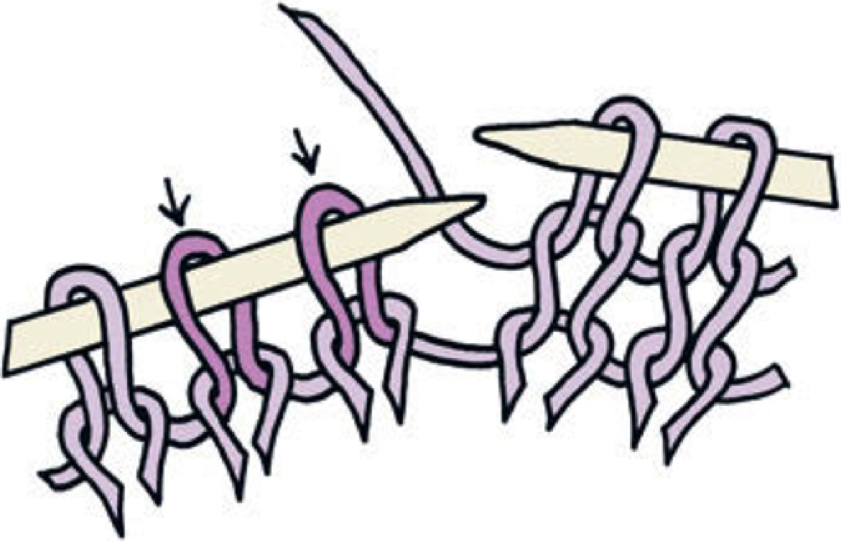

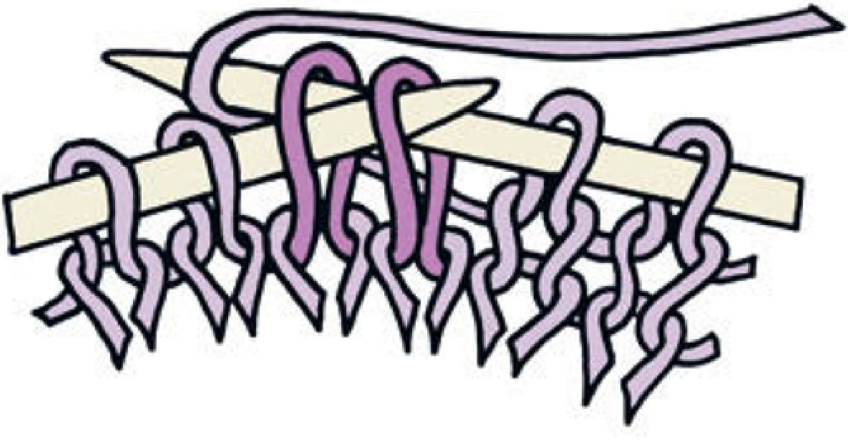

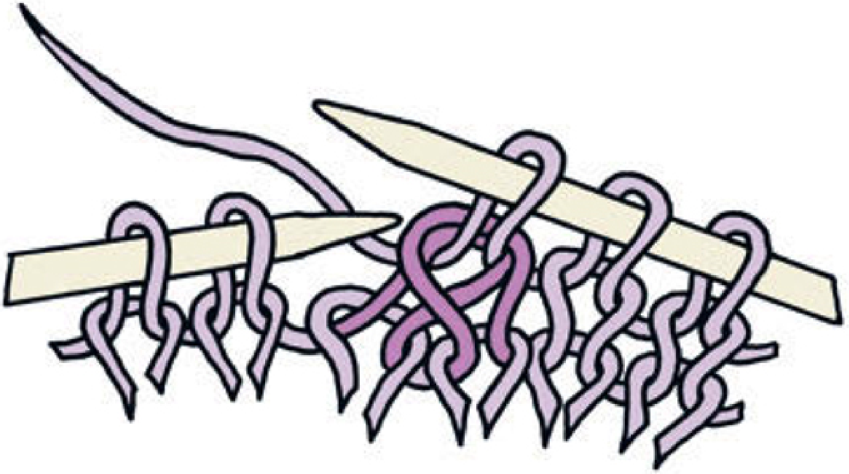

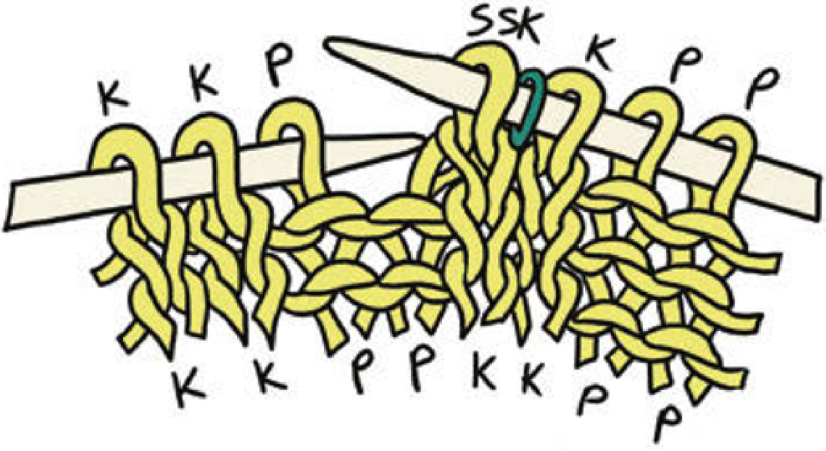
SSK
K
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P
K
P
P
K
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P
P
K
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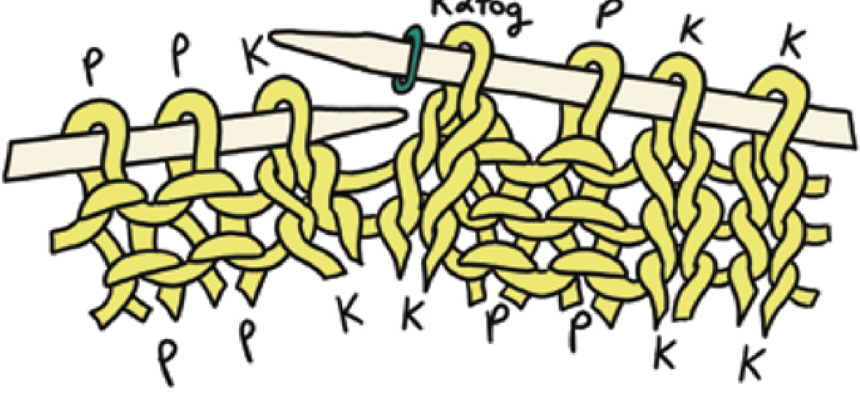
P
P


K2tog
P
P
K
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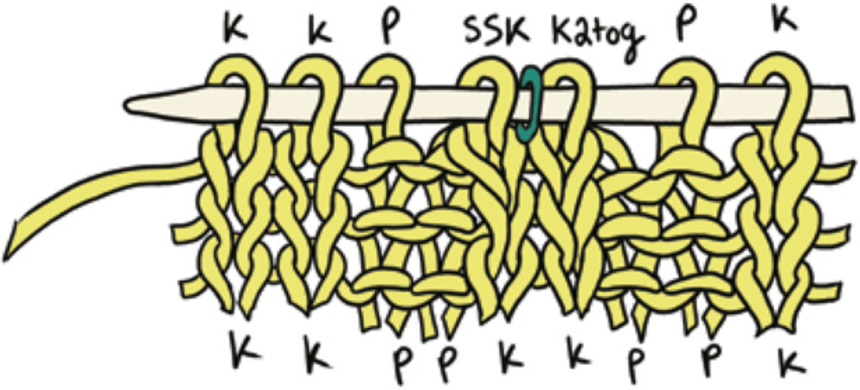
K
K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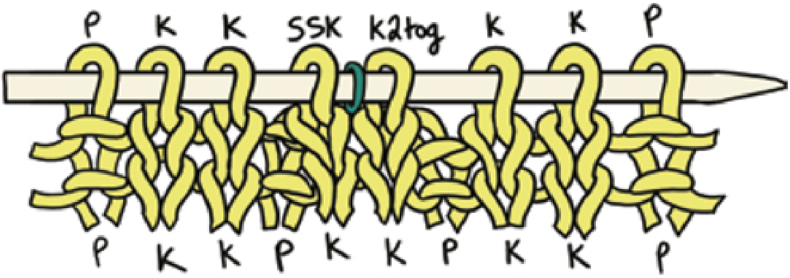
K K P P K K P P K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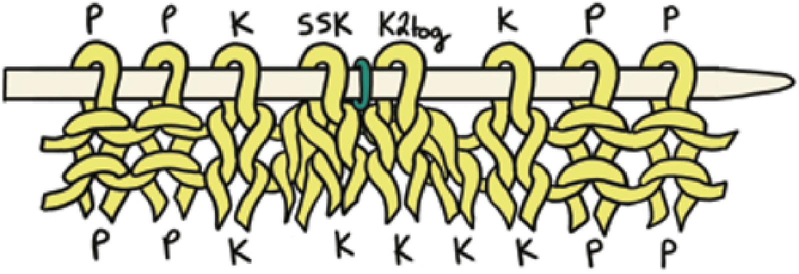
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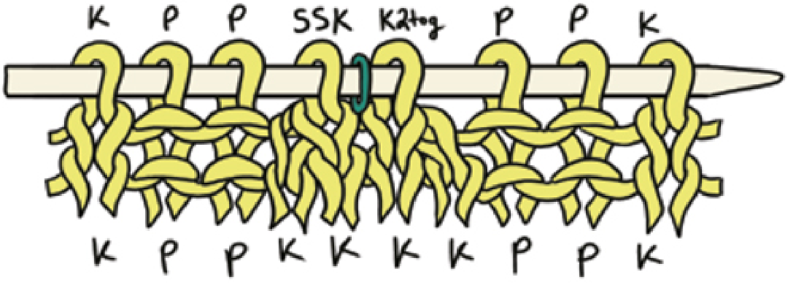
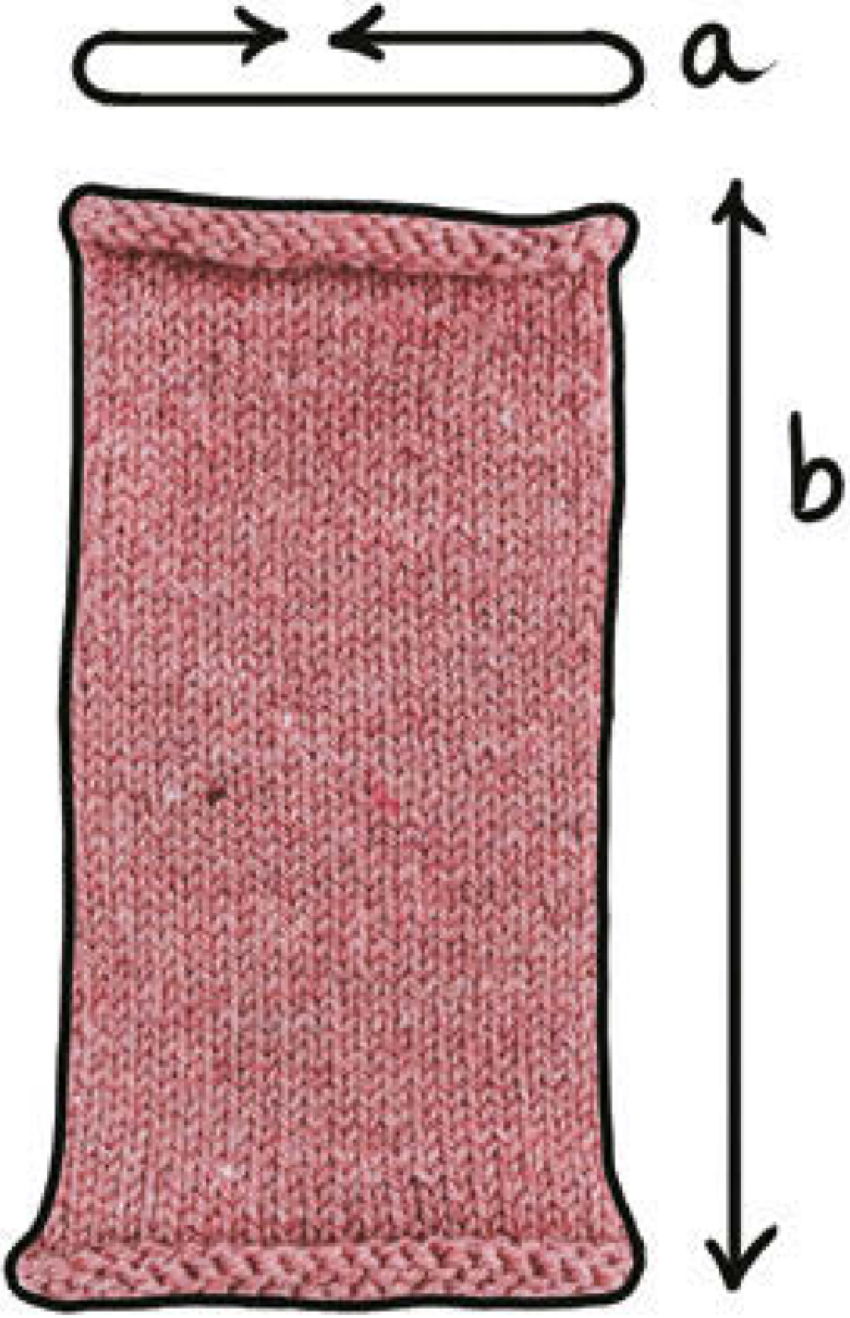
P P K K K K K P P

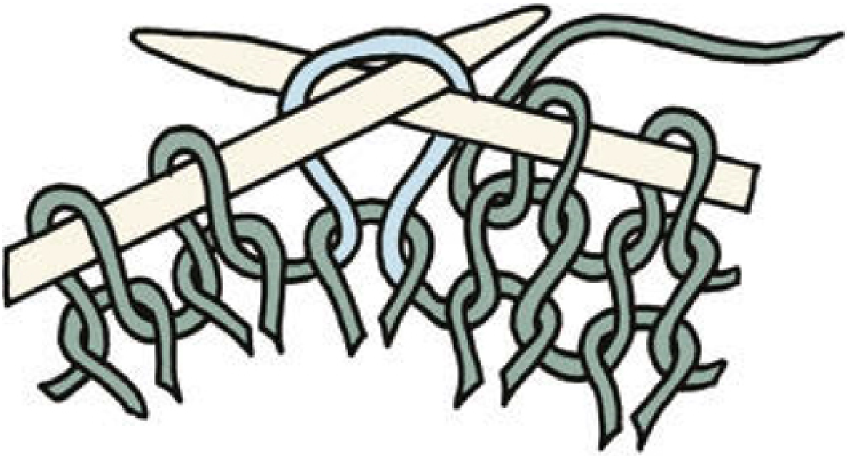

K P P SSK K2tog P P K
K P P K K K K P P K

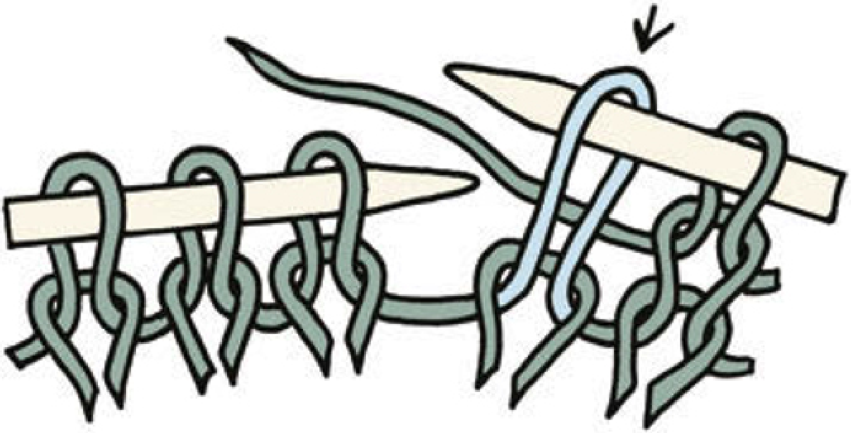
project 4

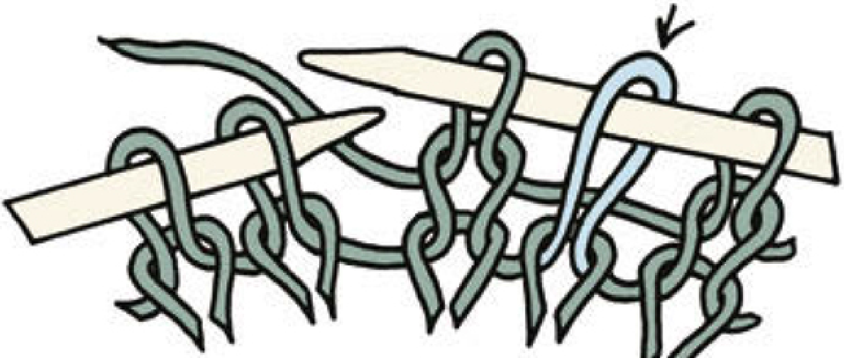
JOHN AND JULIET

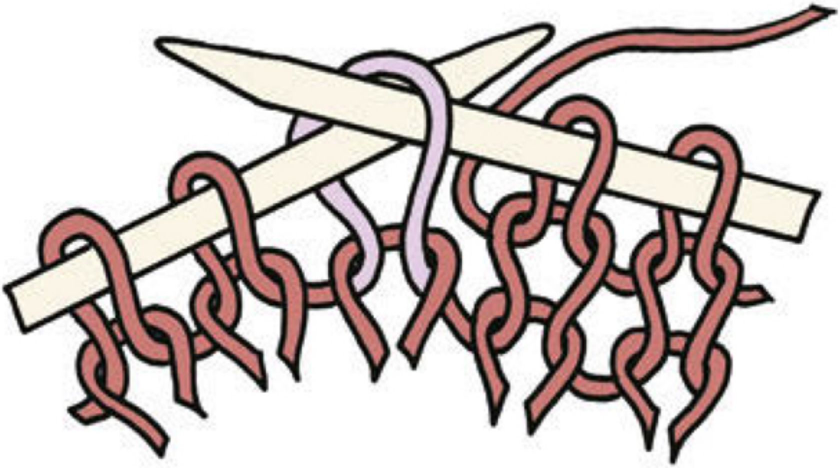
Cuffs in the Round

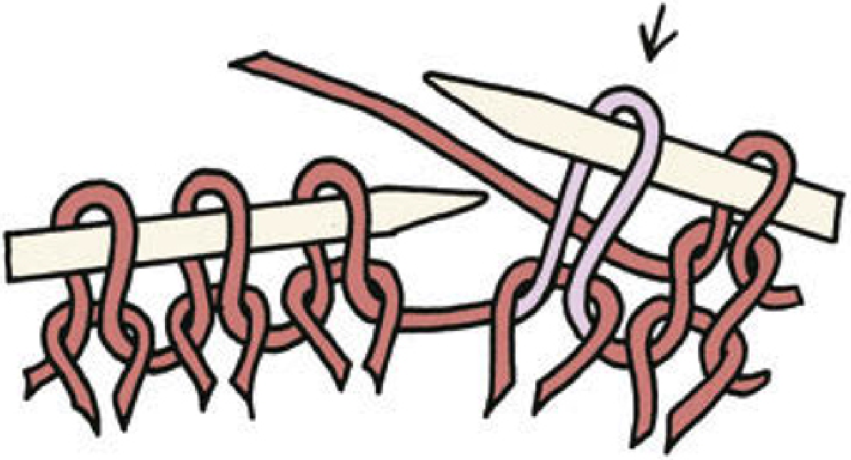

a
b

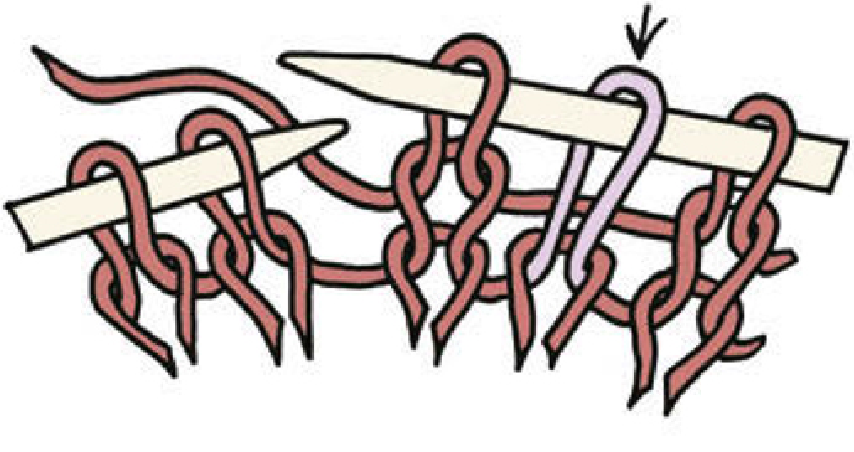








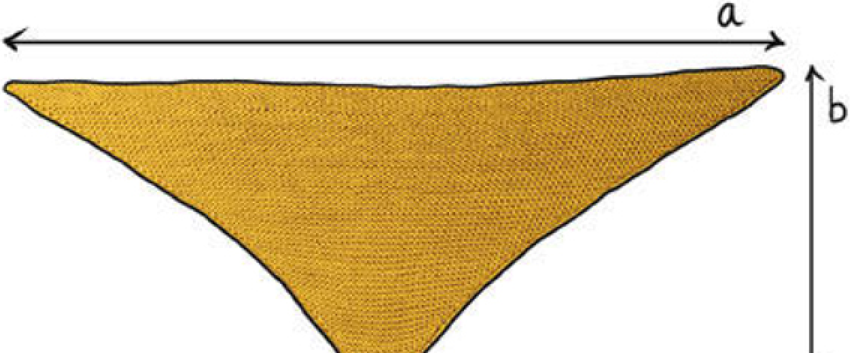




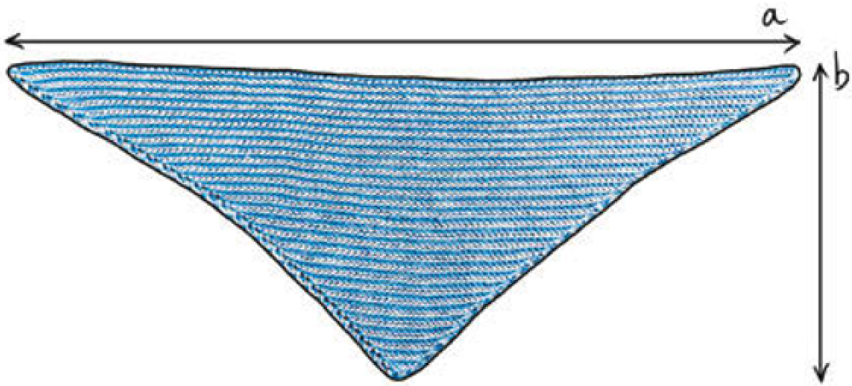
project 5

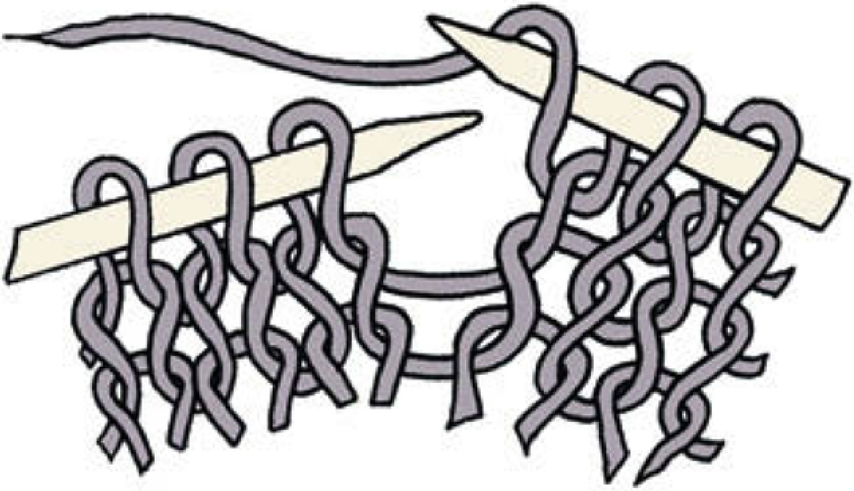
CANDICE ADRIENNE KRISTINE

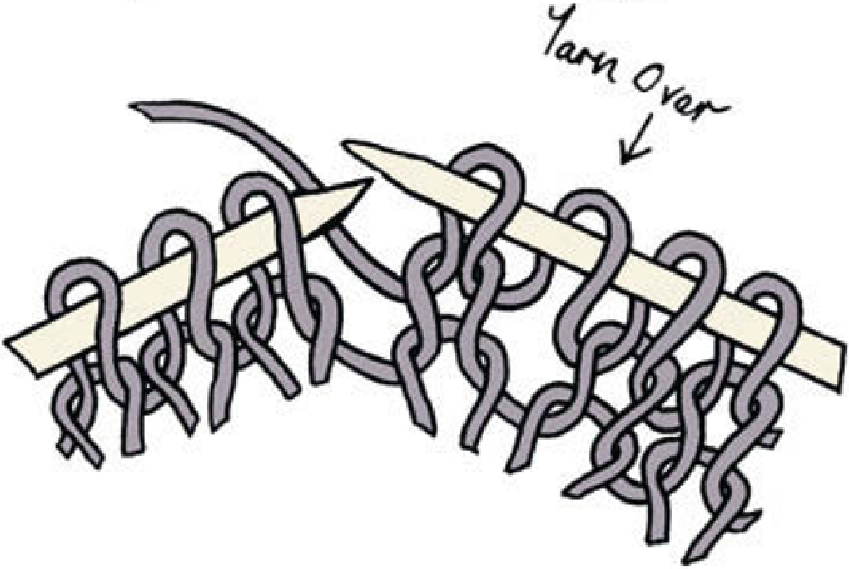
Three Simple Bandanas

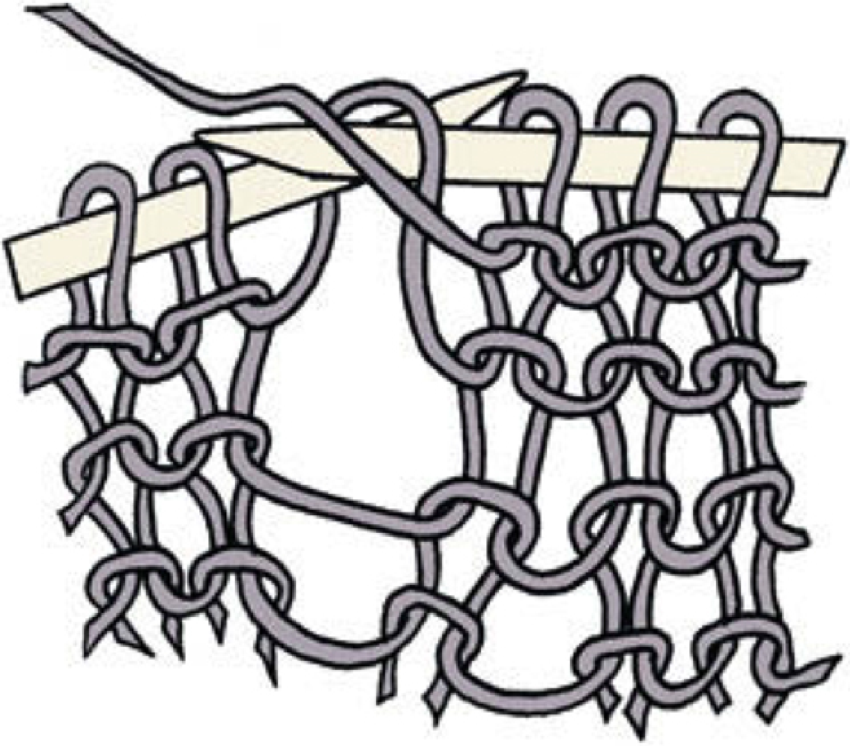


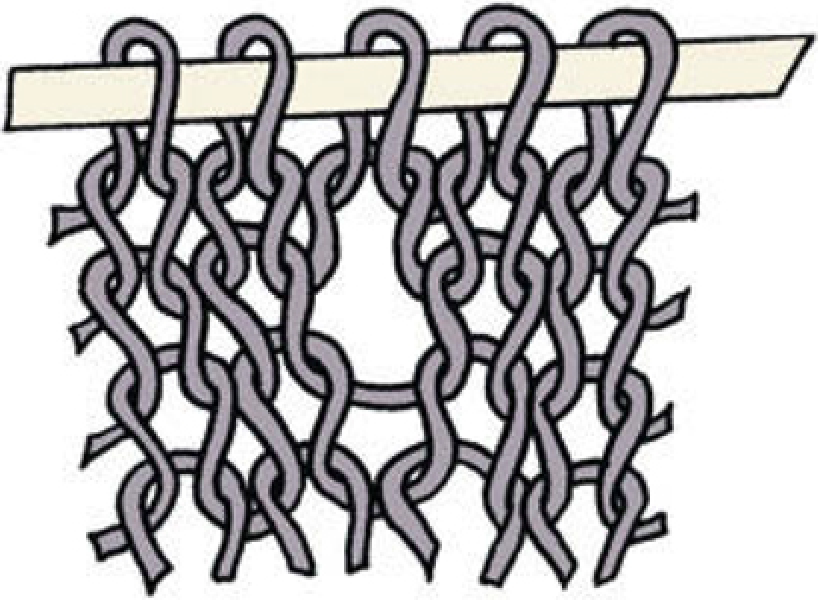
a
b

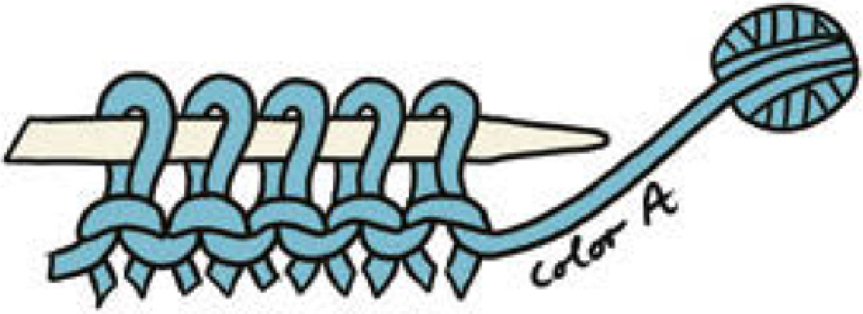

a
b

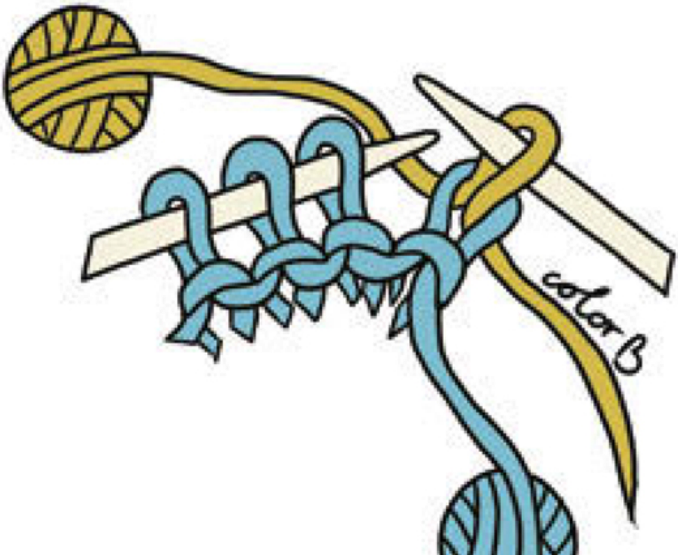



Yarn Over






color A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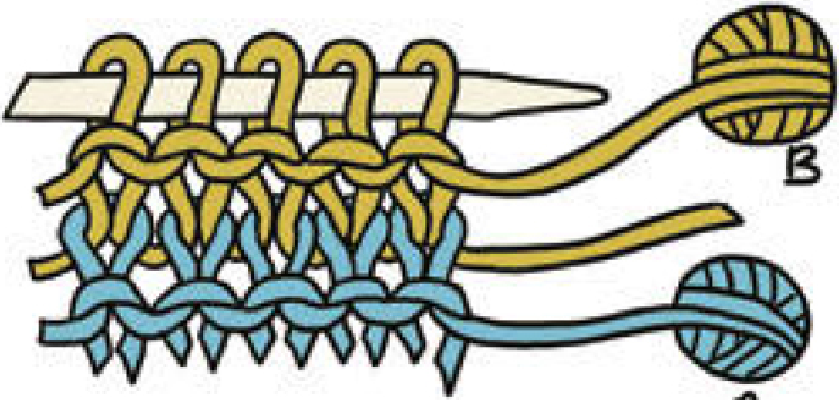
B
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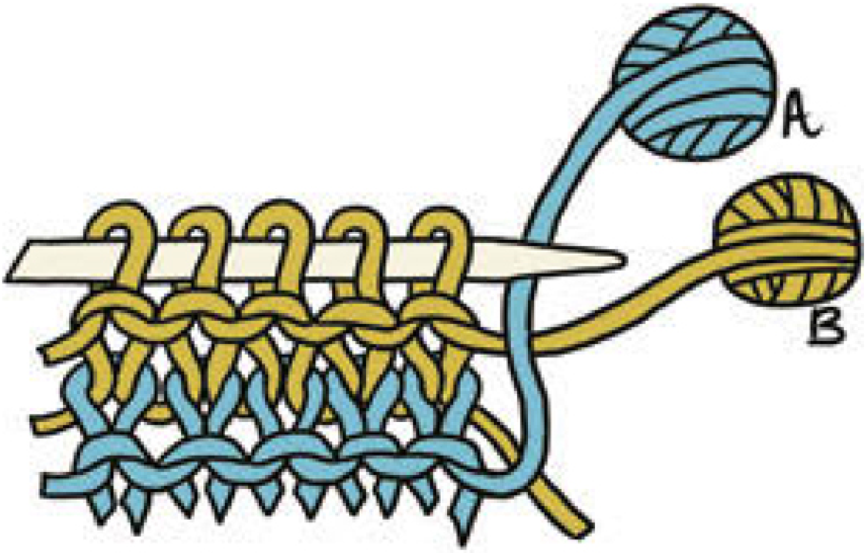
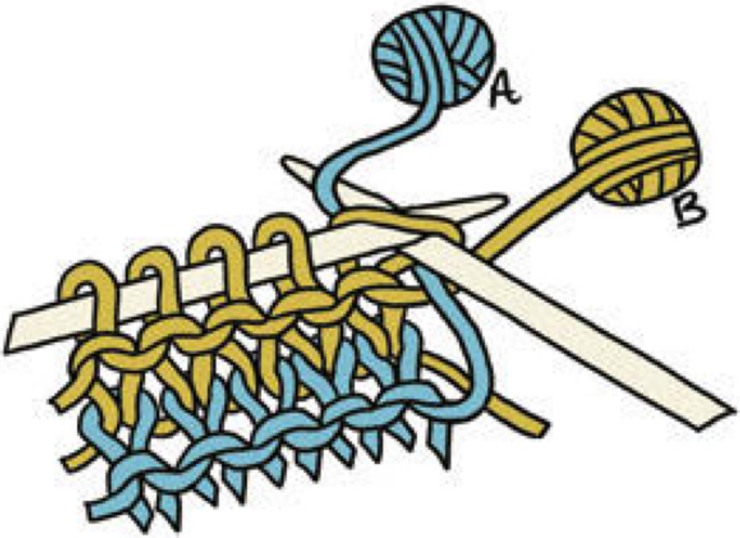

A
B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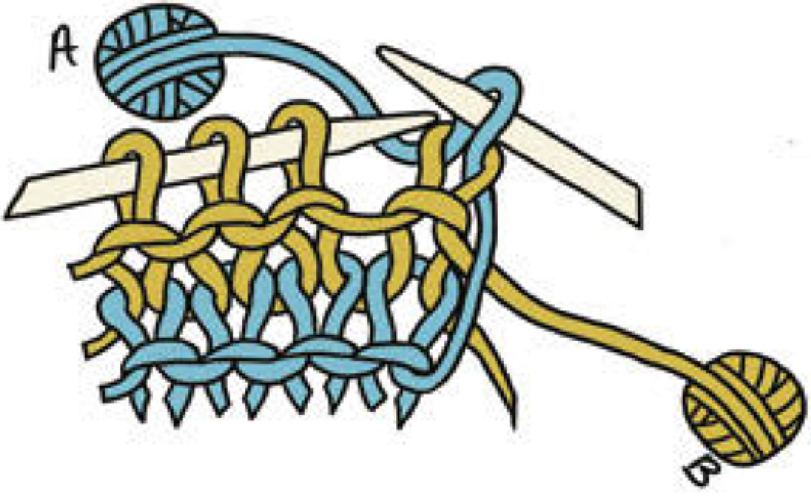
A
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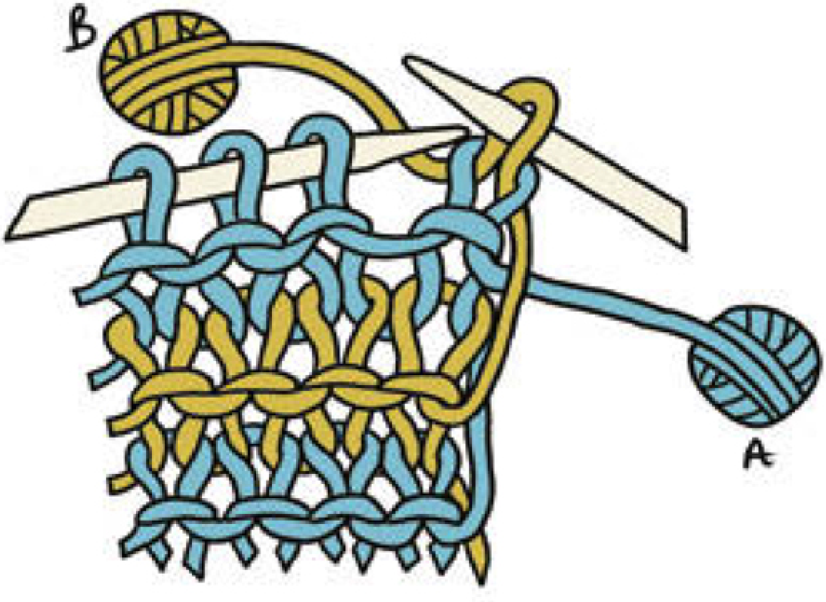
B
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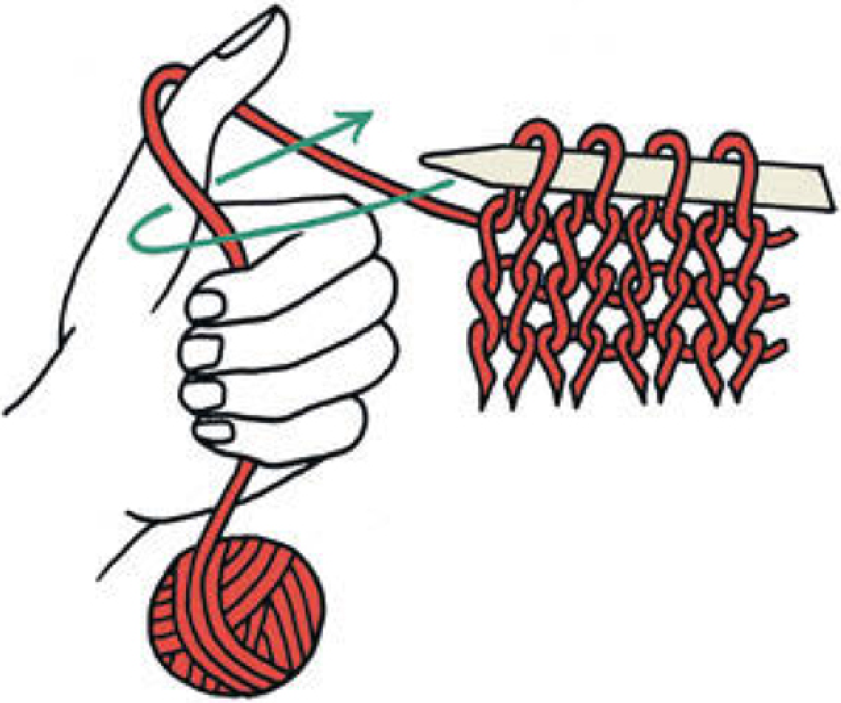
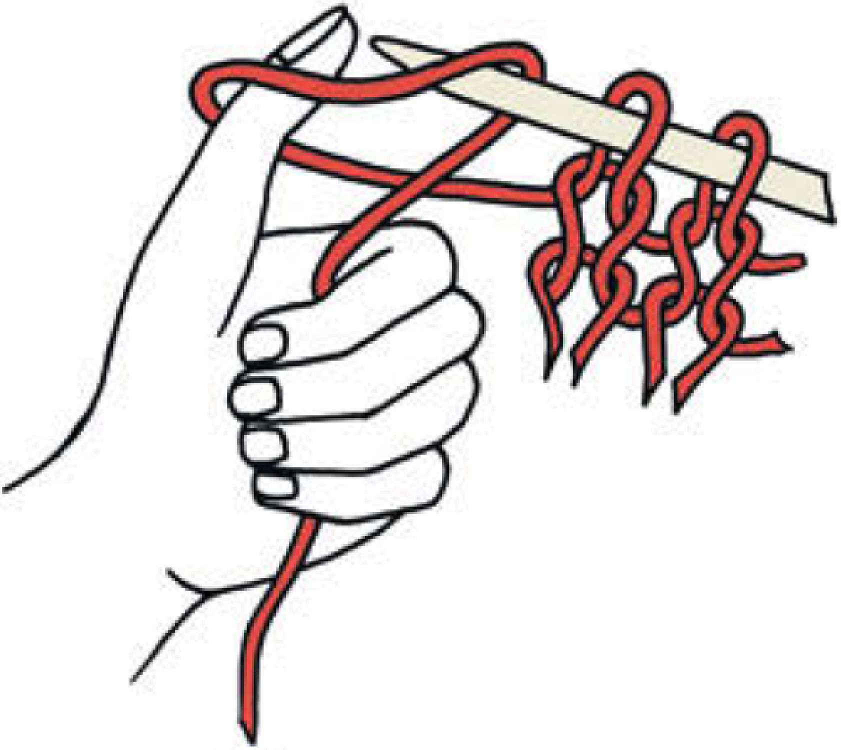
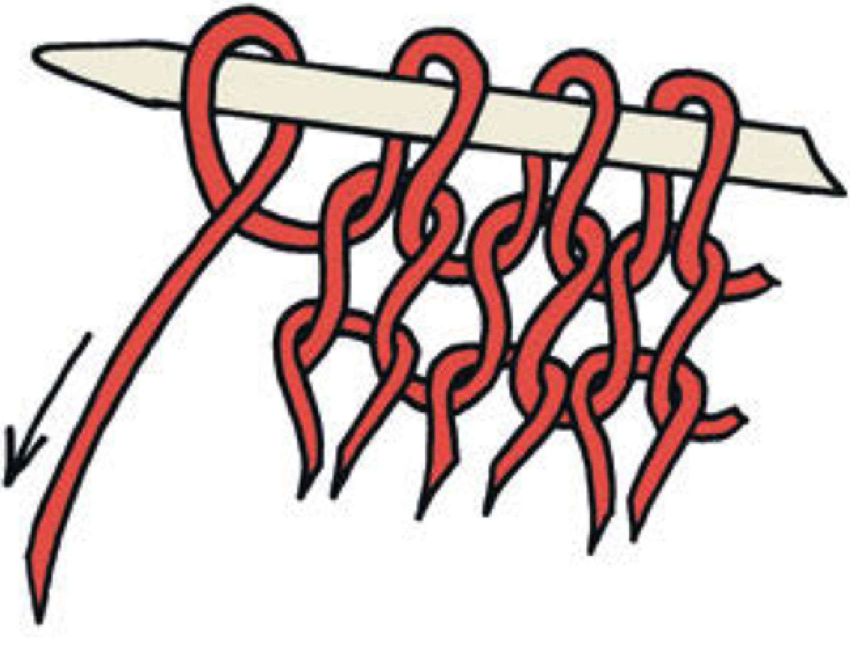
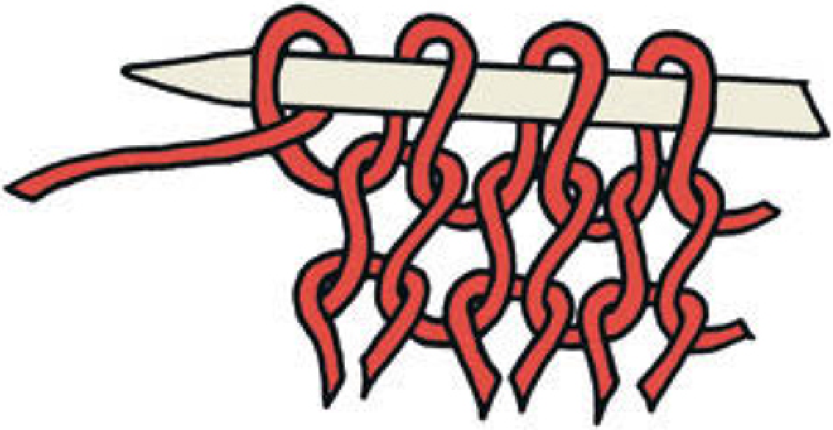
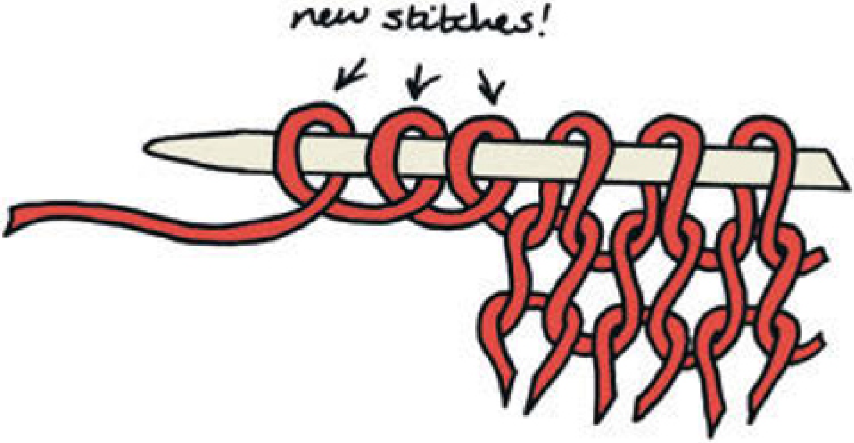
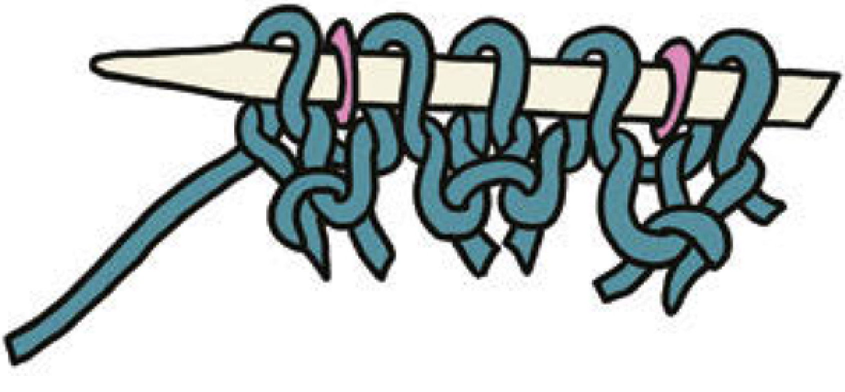


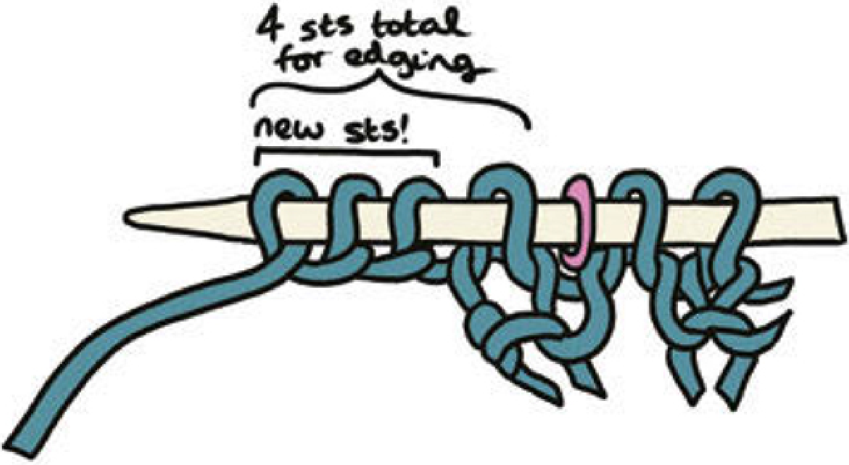


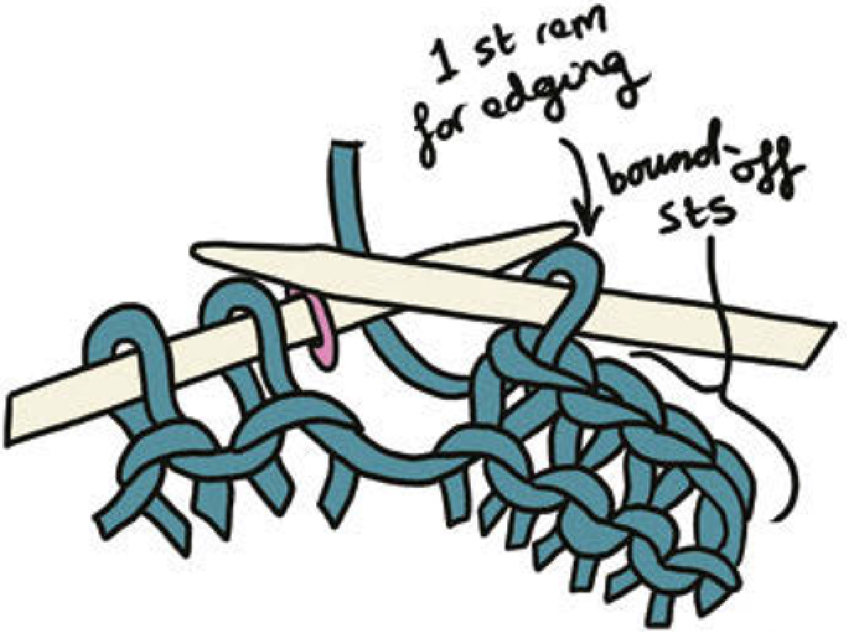


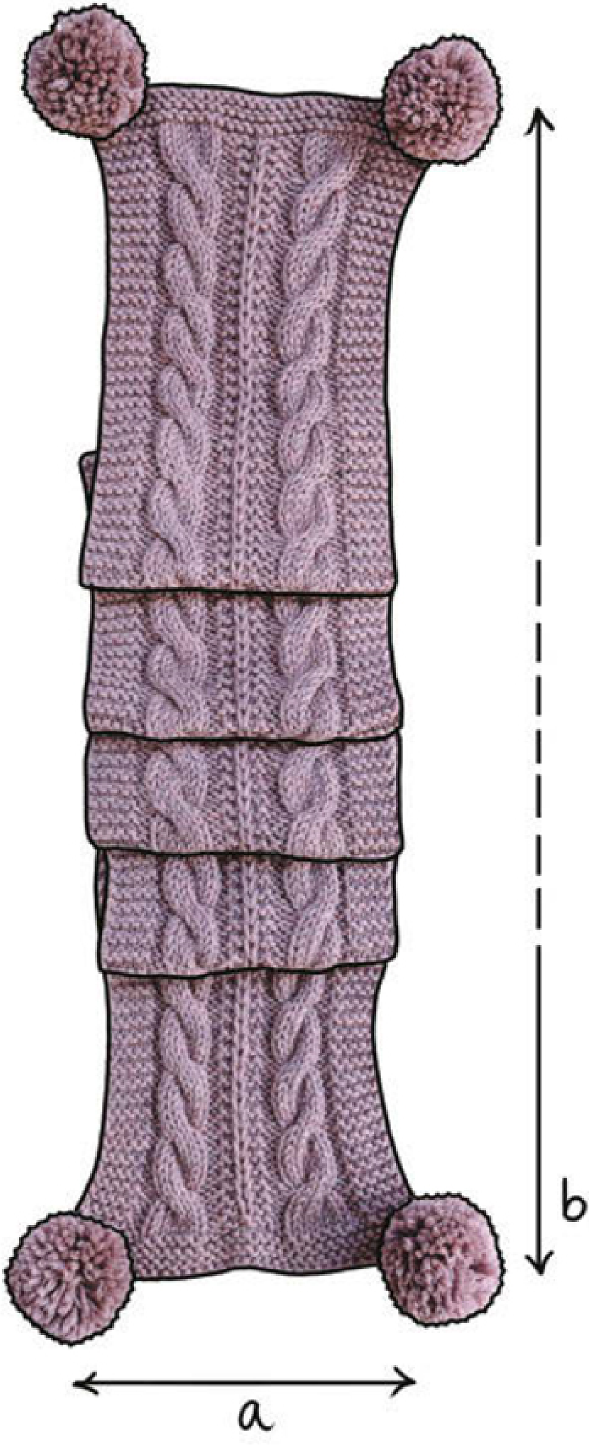


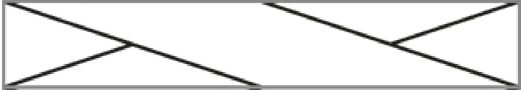
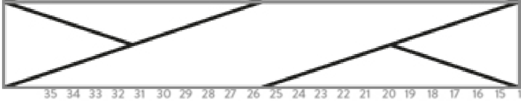

new stitches!




4 sts total for edging
new sts!


1 st rem for edging
bound-off sts


b
a

	knit on RS, purl on WS
●	purl on RS, knit on WS
V	RS only: slip purlwise with yarn in back
	3/3 LC
	3/3 RC

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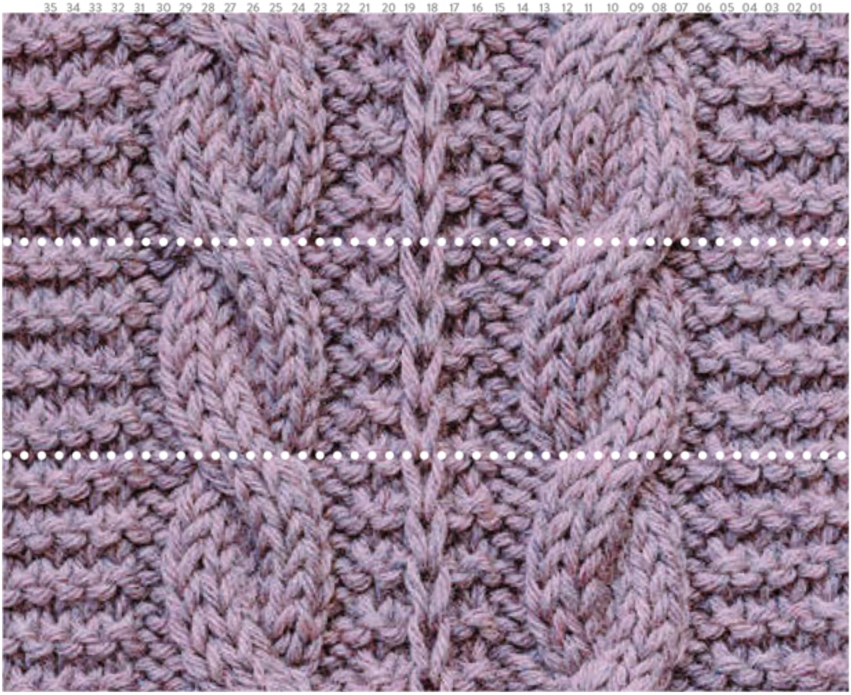
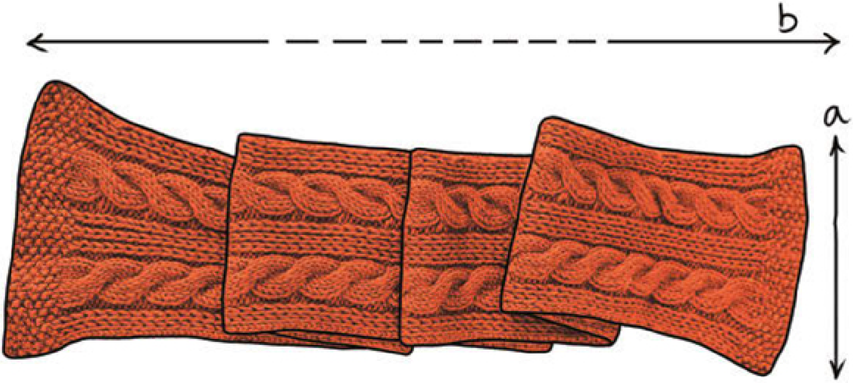
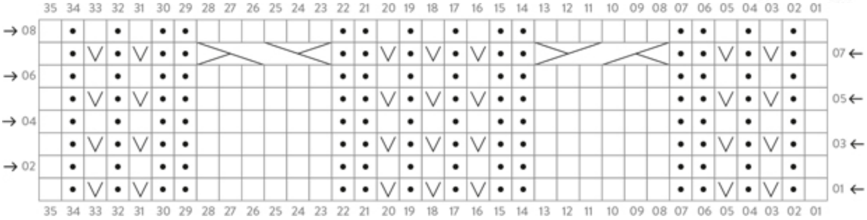
→ 08	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
						●	●	3/3 LC						●	●			V			●	●	3/3 RC						●	●						07 ←
→ 06	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
						●	●							●	●			V			●	●							●	●						05 ←
→ 04	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
						●	●							●	●			V			●	●							●	●						03 ←
→ 02	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●							●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
						●	●							●	●			V			●	●							●	●						01 ←
	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	



	knit on RS, purl on WS
●	purl on RS, knit on WS
V	RS only: slip purlwise with yarn in back
	3/3 LC
	3/3 RC





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→ 08		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		
		•	V	•	V	•	•	3/3 LC						•	•	V	•	V	•	V	•	•	3/3 RC						•	•	V	•	V	•		07 ←
→ 06		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		
		•	V	•	V	•	•							•	•	V	•	V	•	V	•	•							•	•	V	•	V	•		05 ←
→ 04		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		
		•	V	•	V	•	•							•	•	V	•	V	•	V	•	•							•	•	V	•	V	•		03 ←
→ 02		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		•	•							•	•		•		•		
		•	V	•	V	•	•							•	•	V	•	V	•	V	•	•							•	•	V	•	V	•		01 ←
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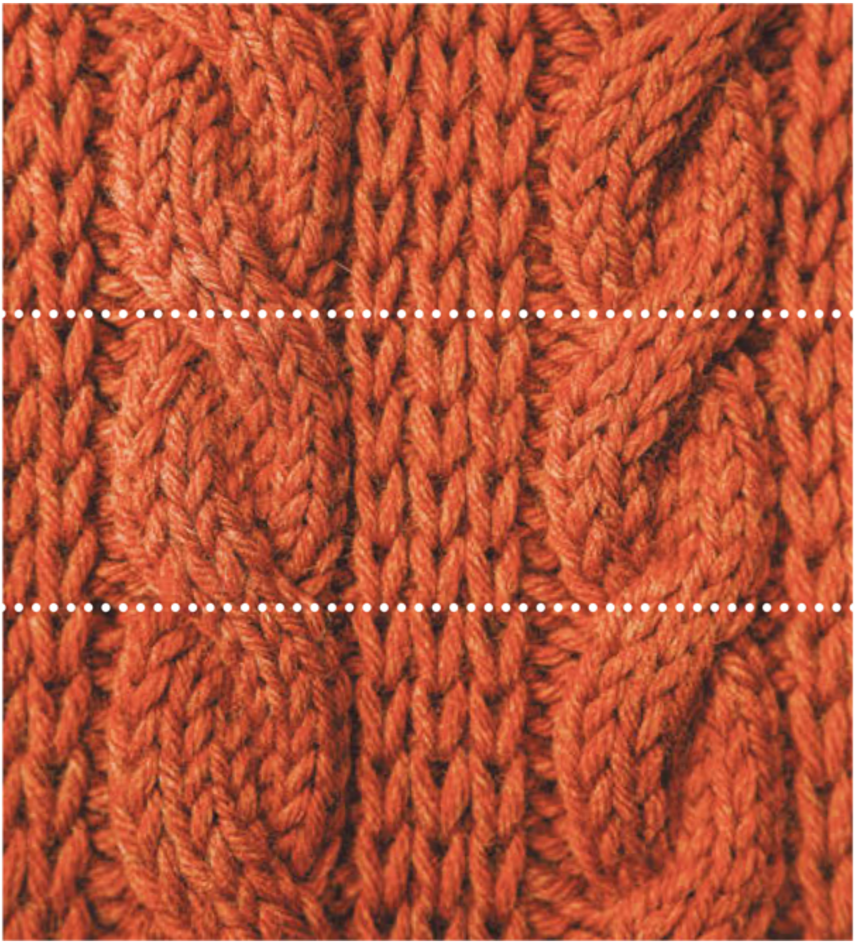
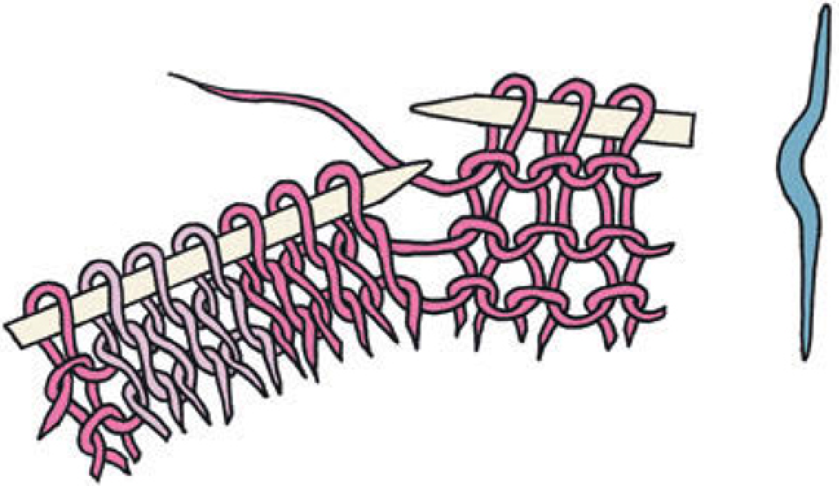
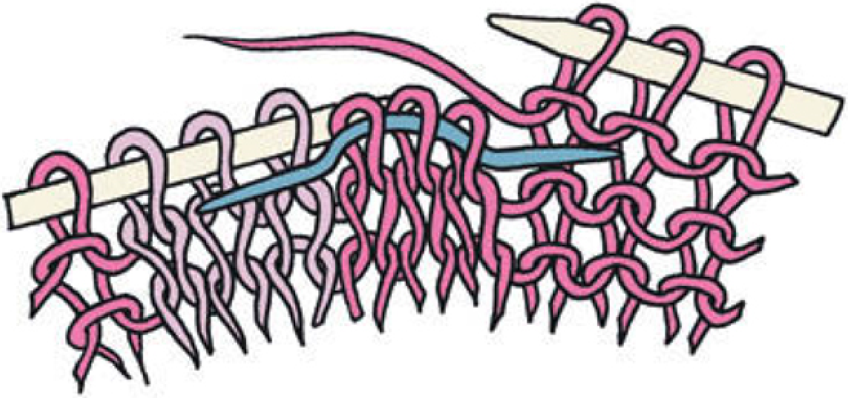
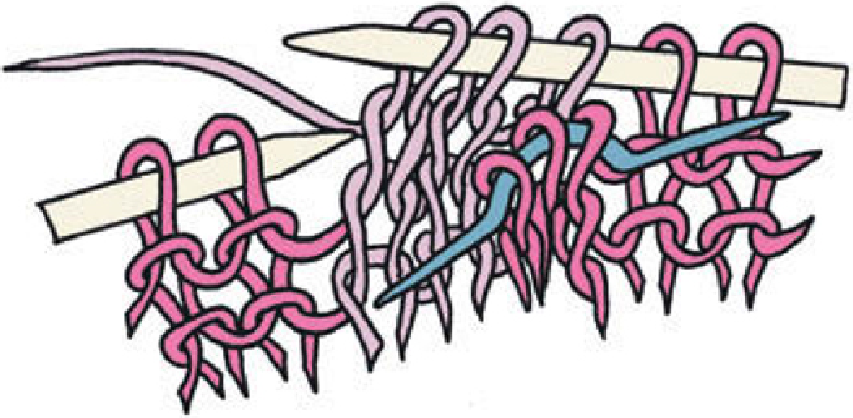
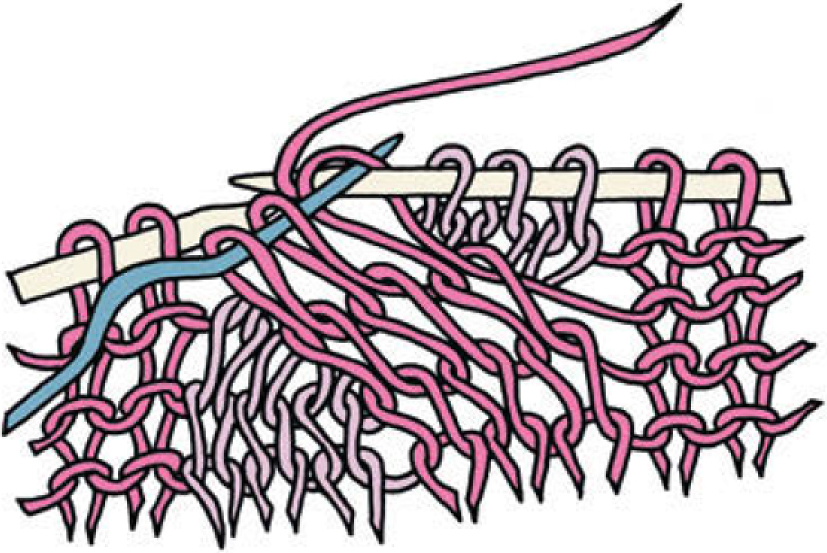
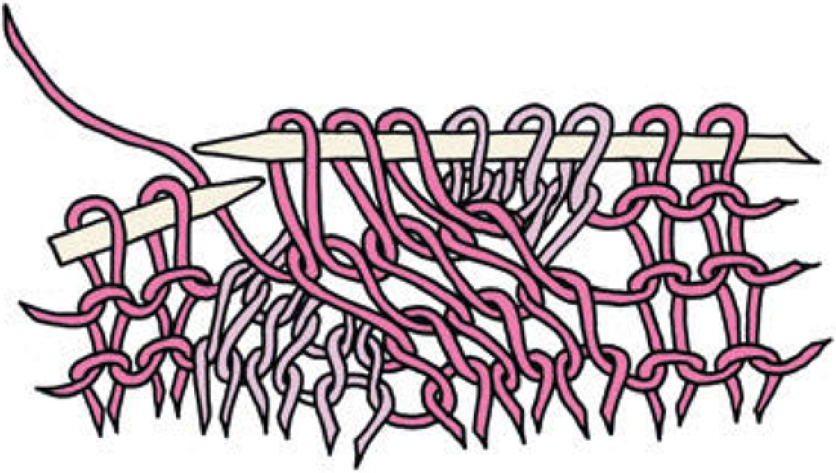


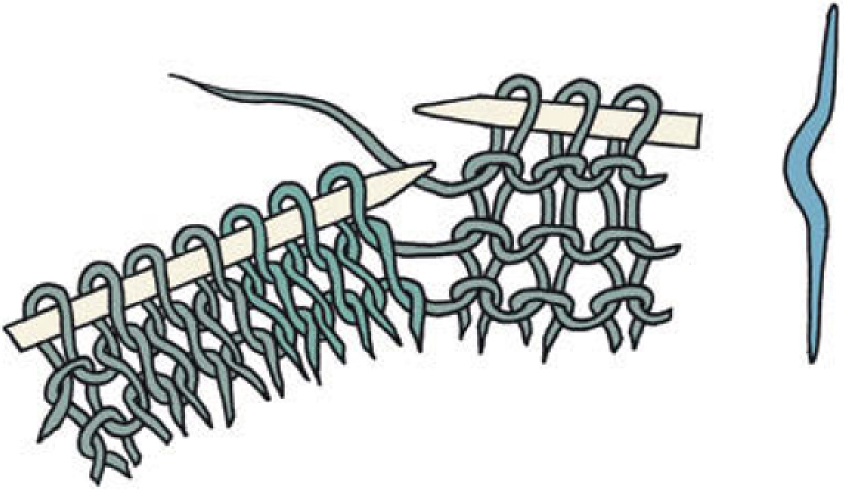


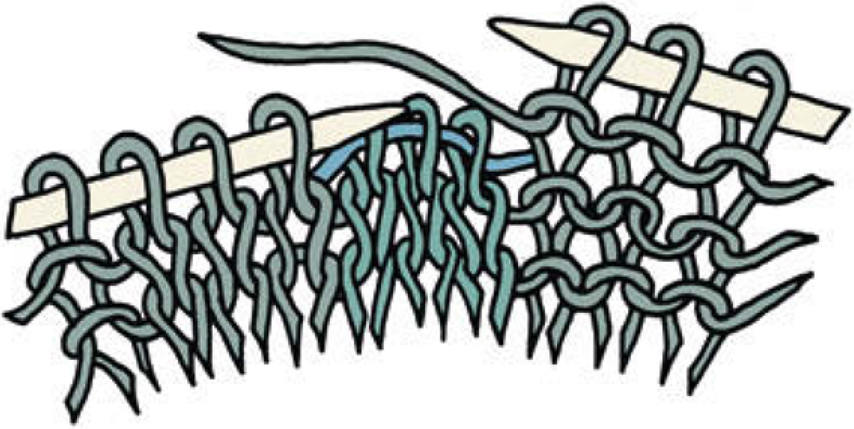


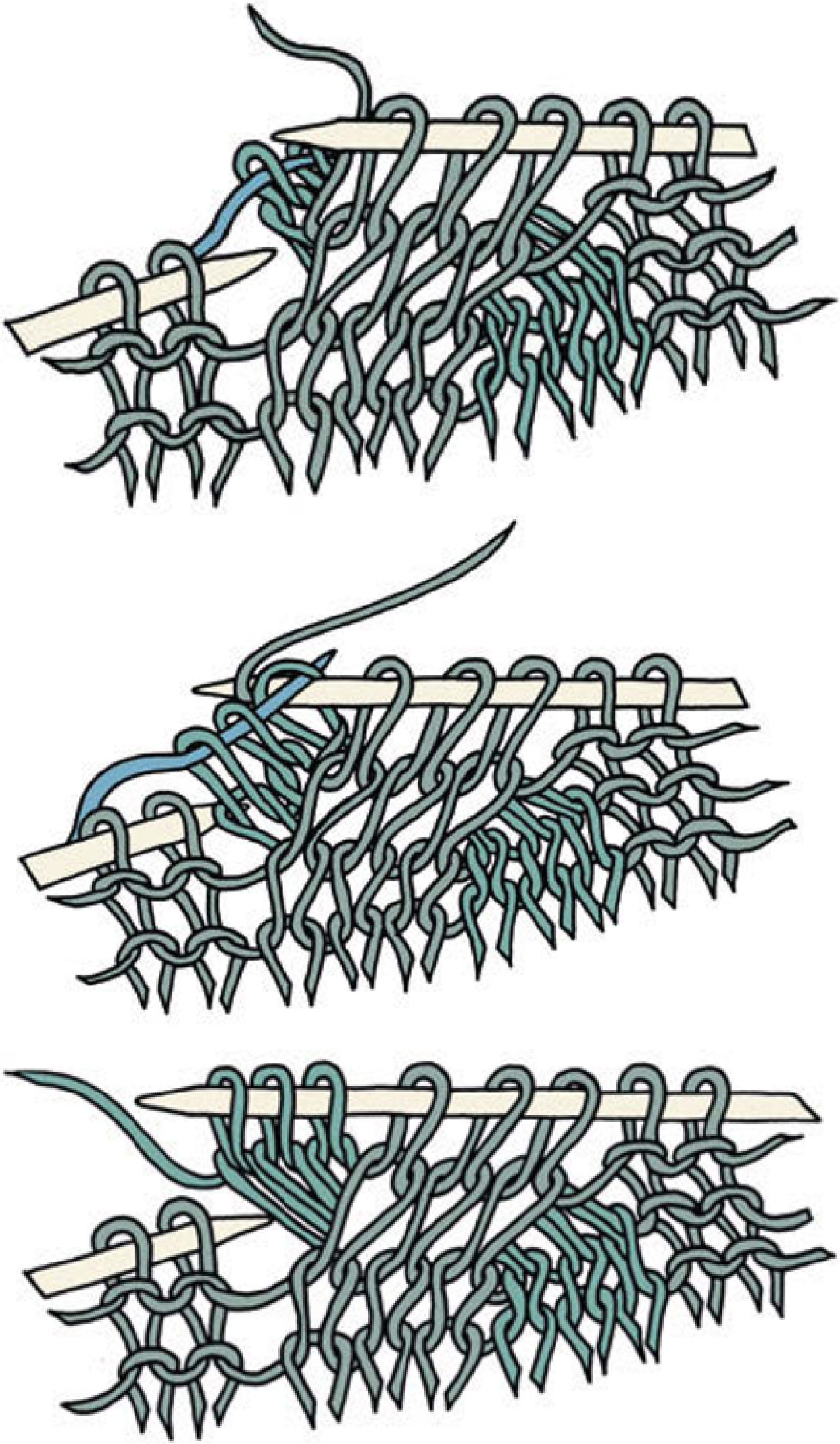


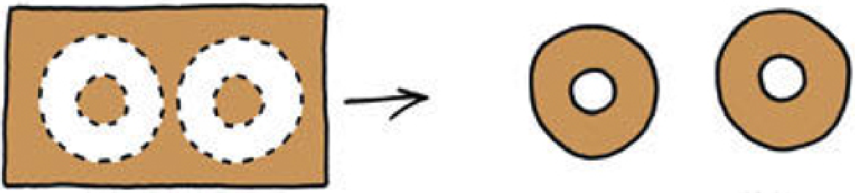


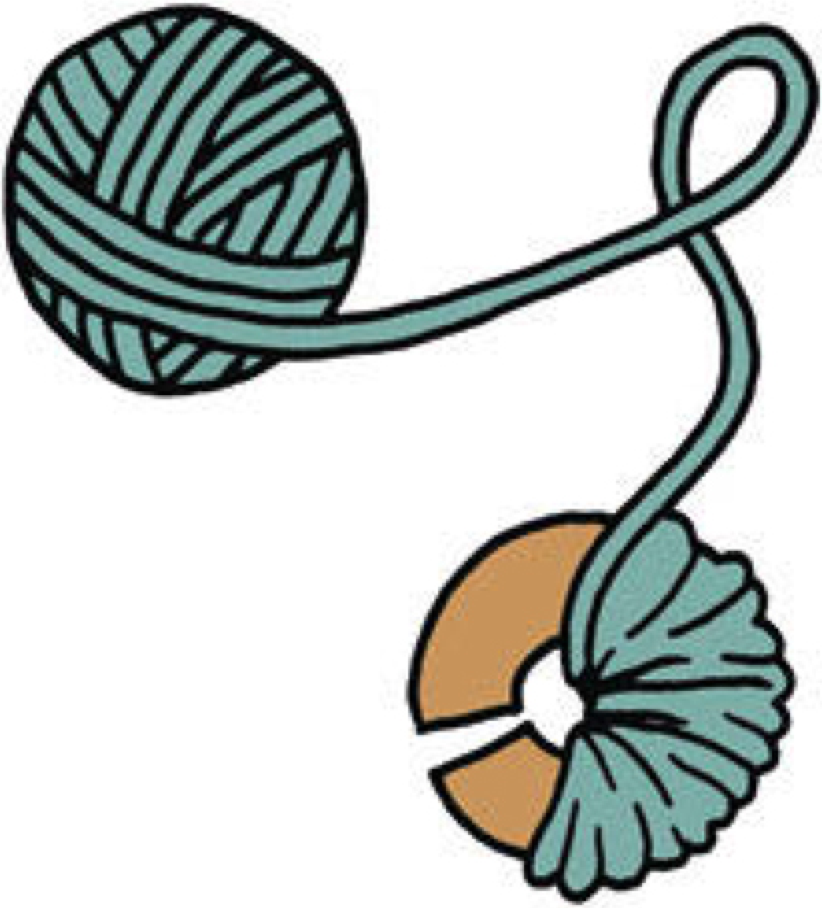


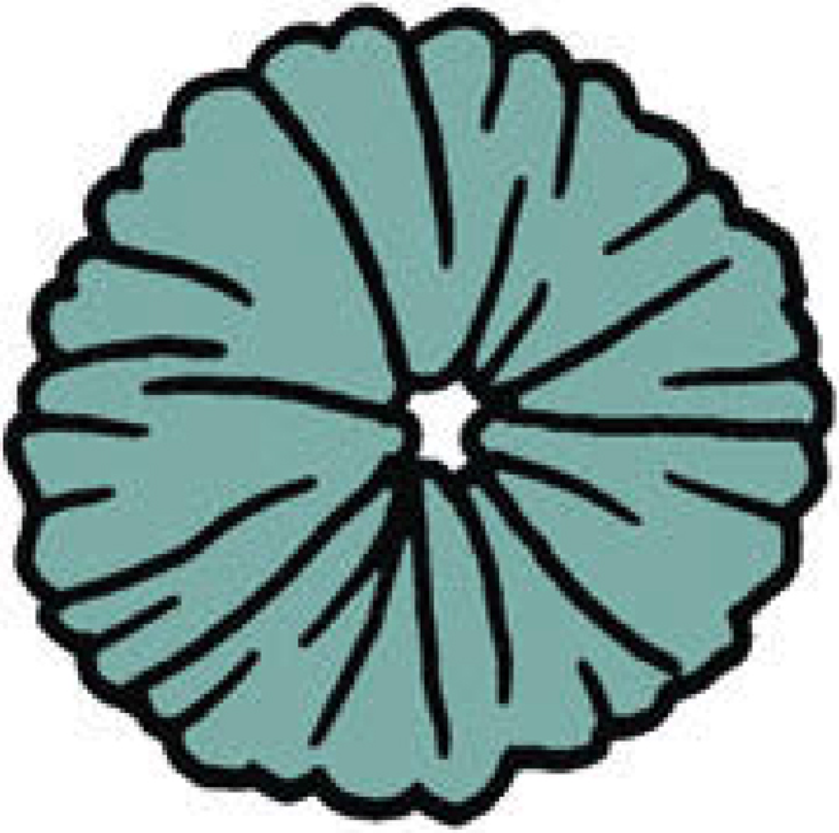


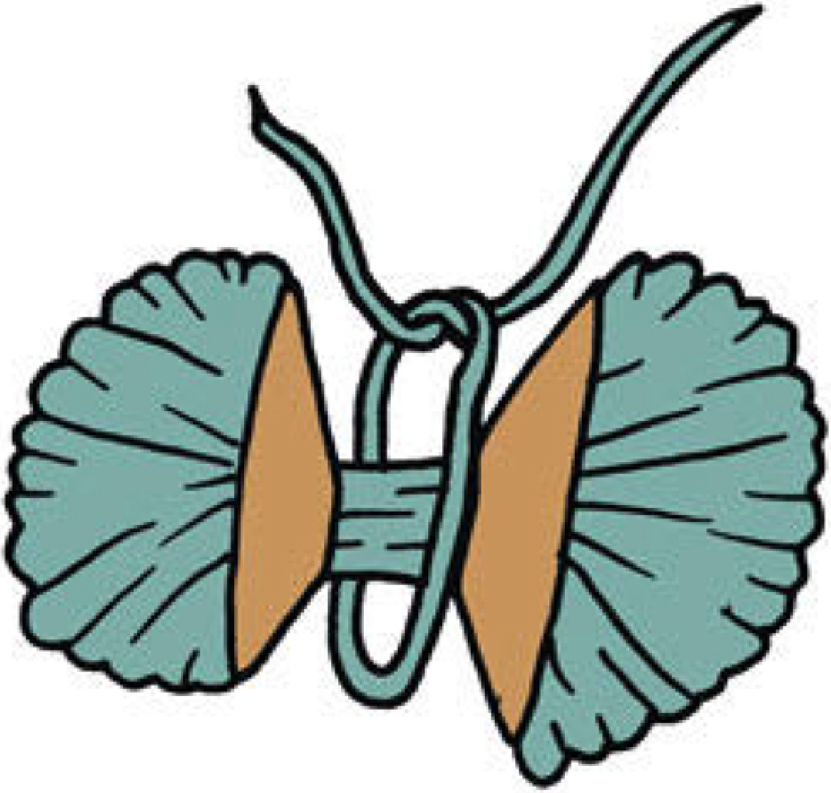


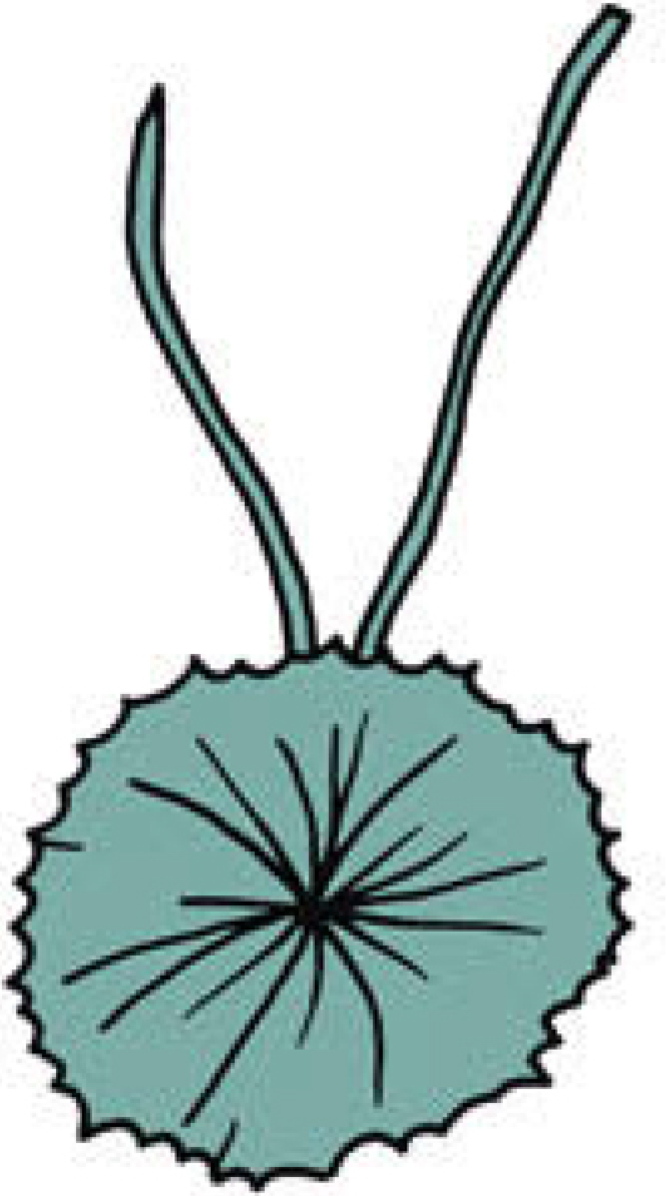








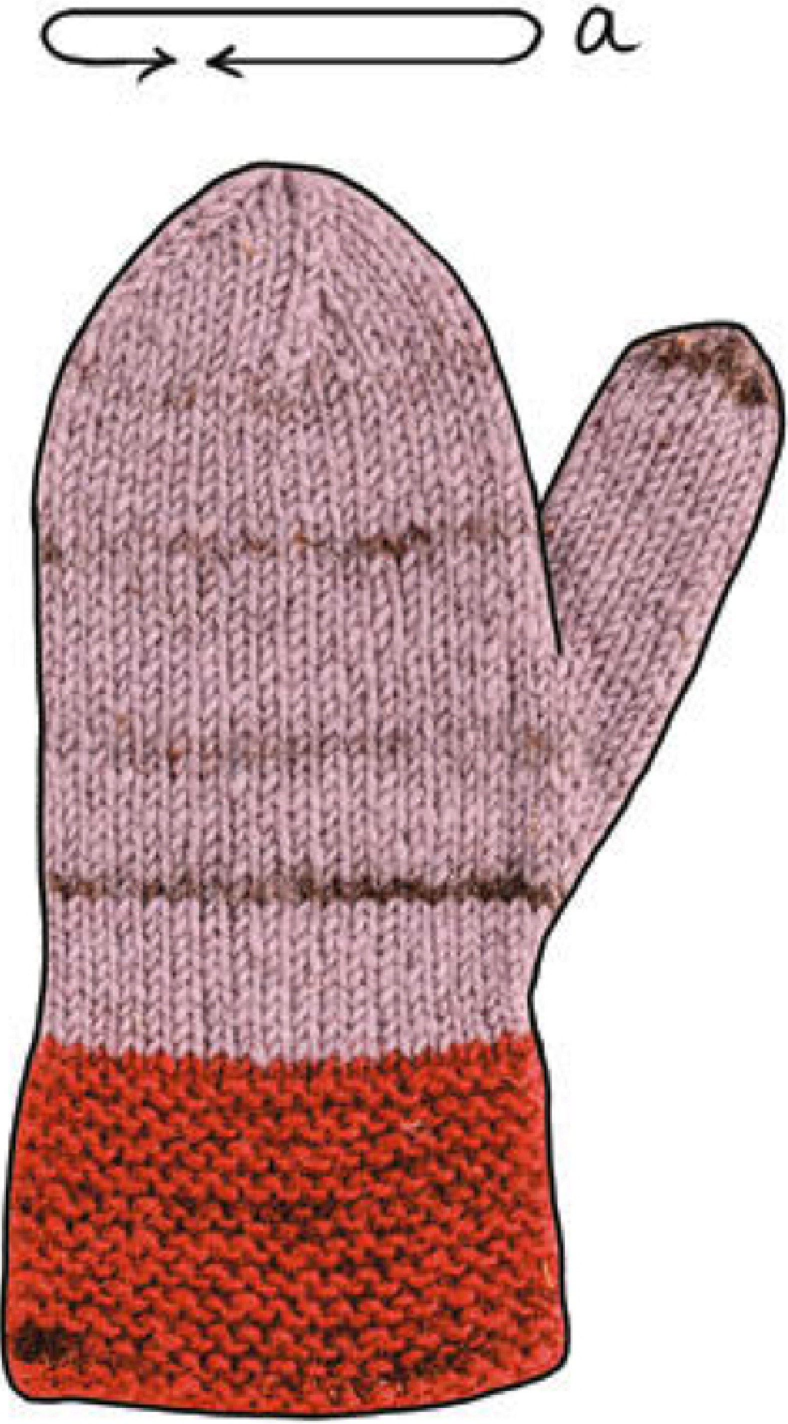




project 7

ROSA

Mittens in the Round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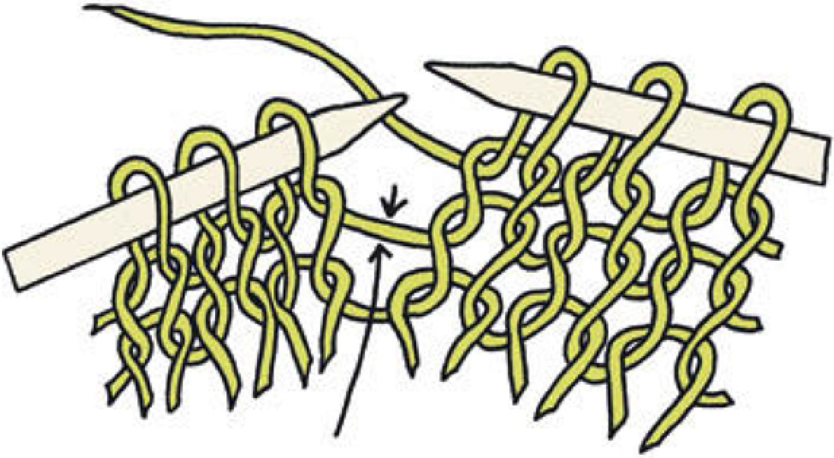
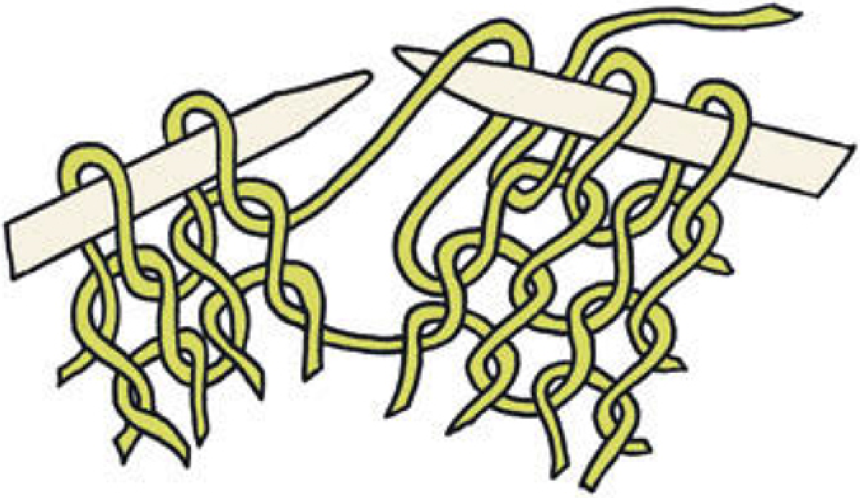
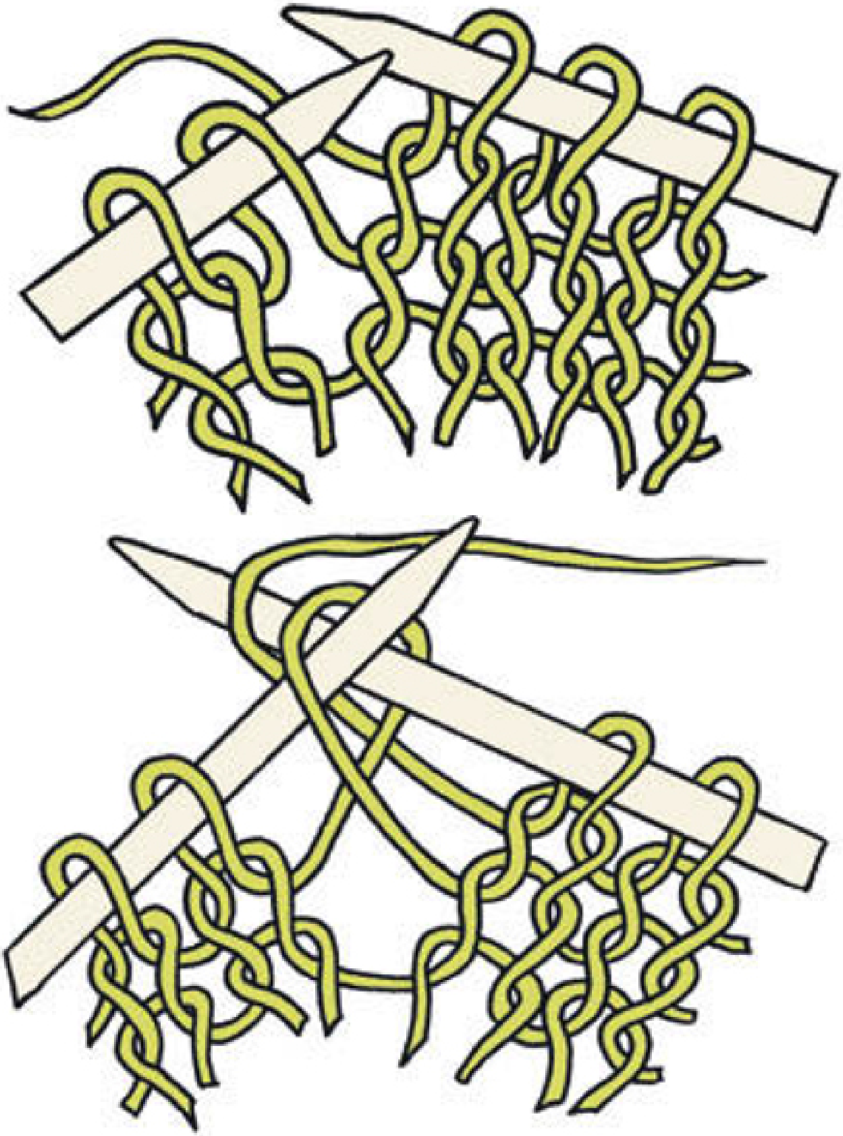
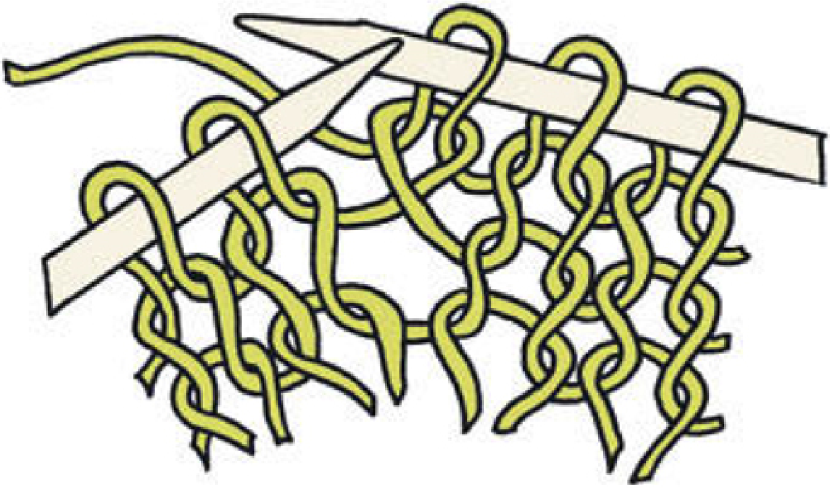
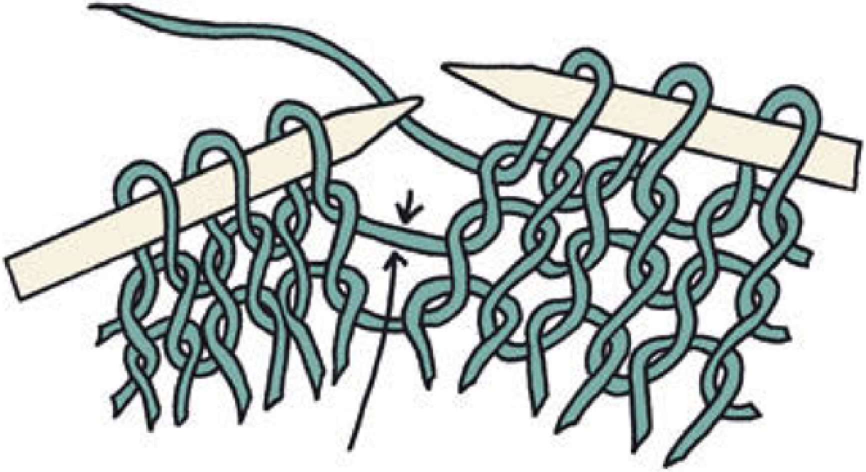
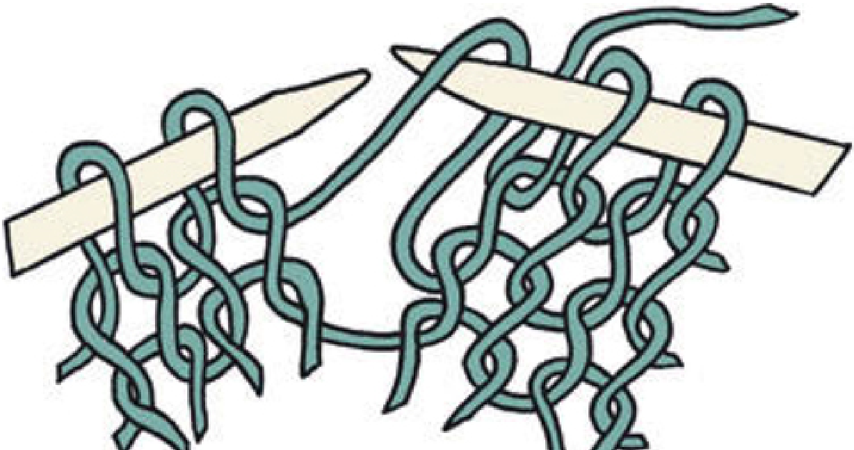


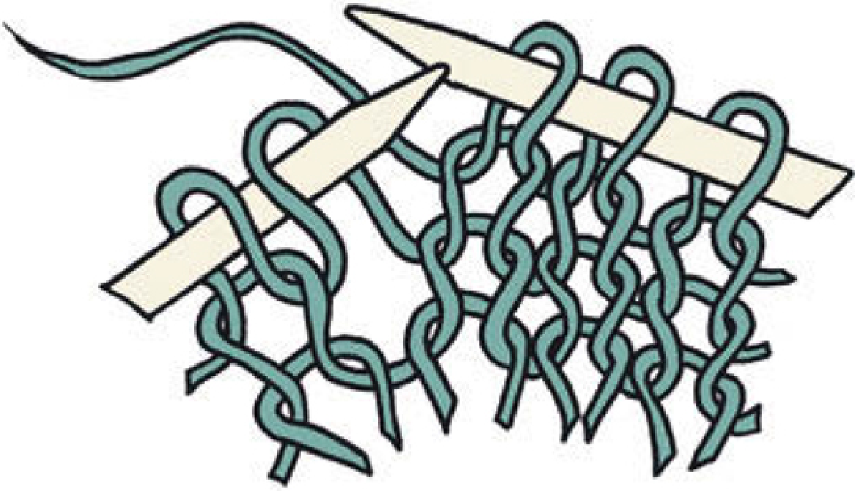


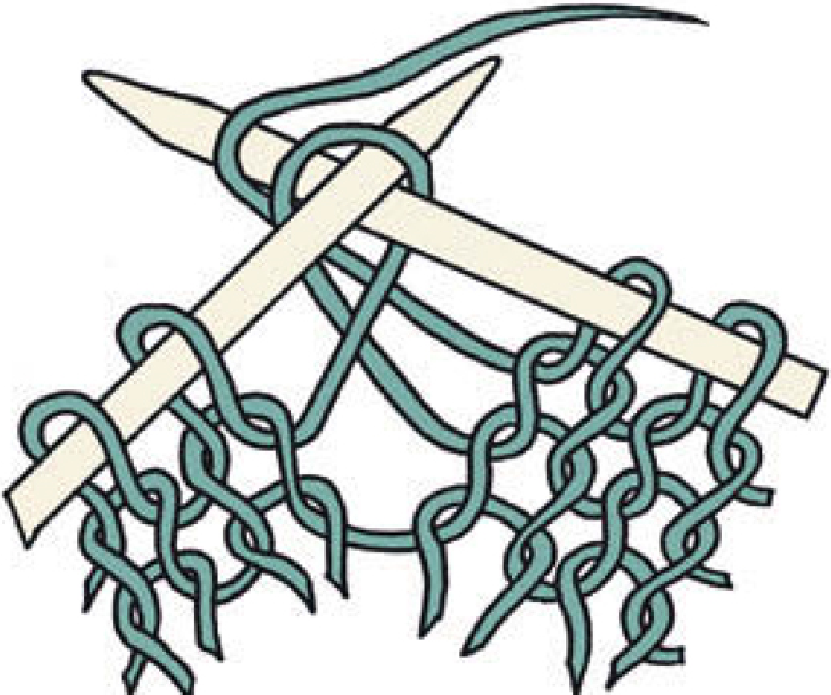


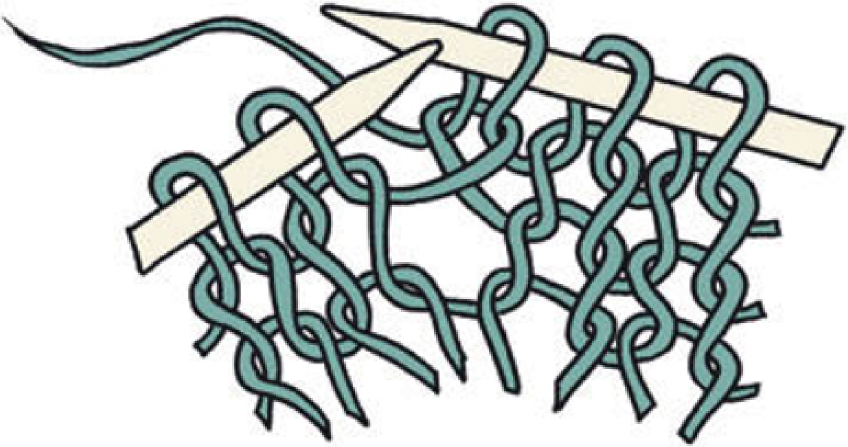


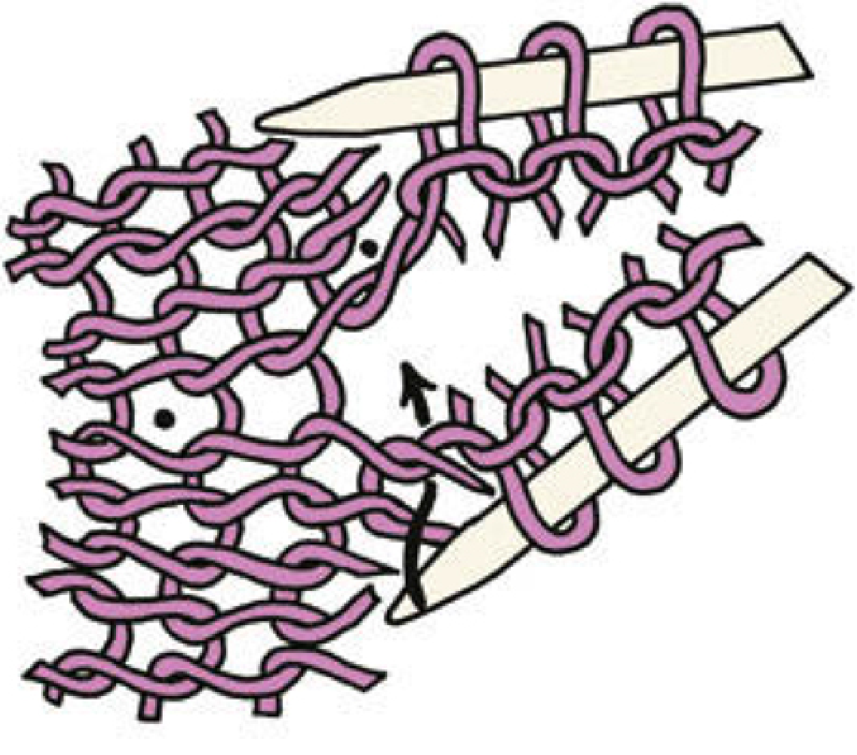


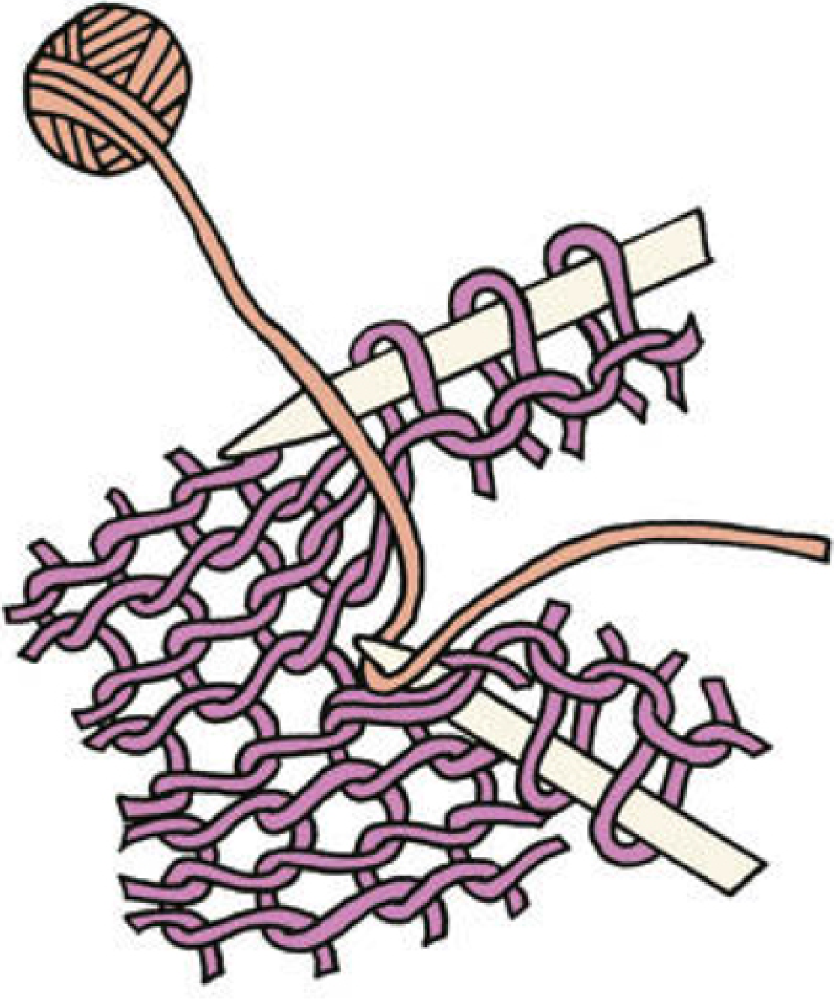


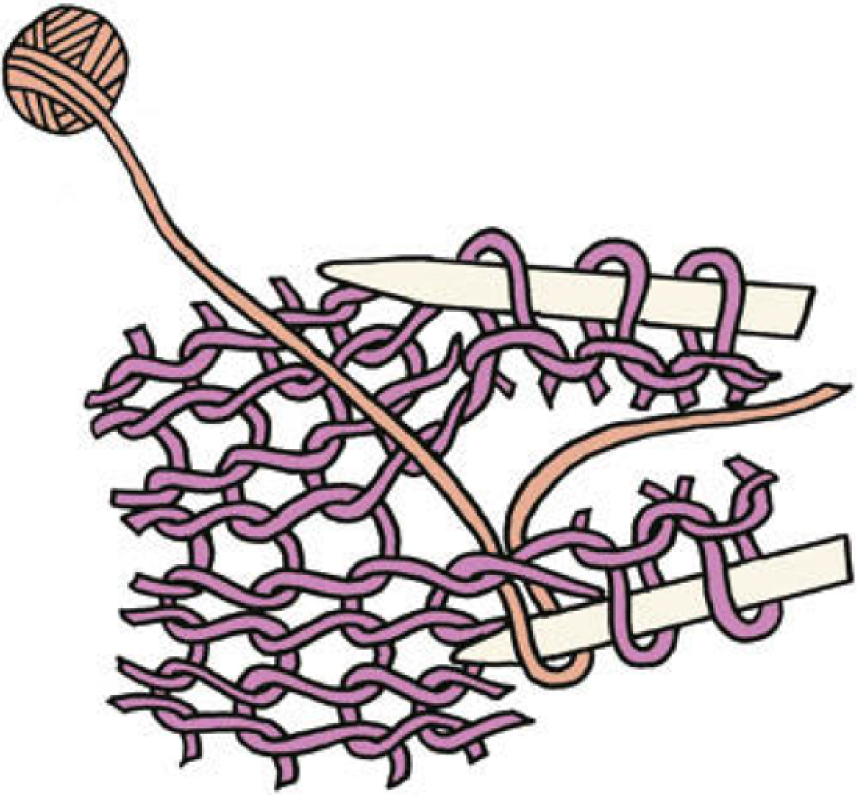


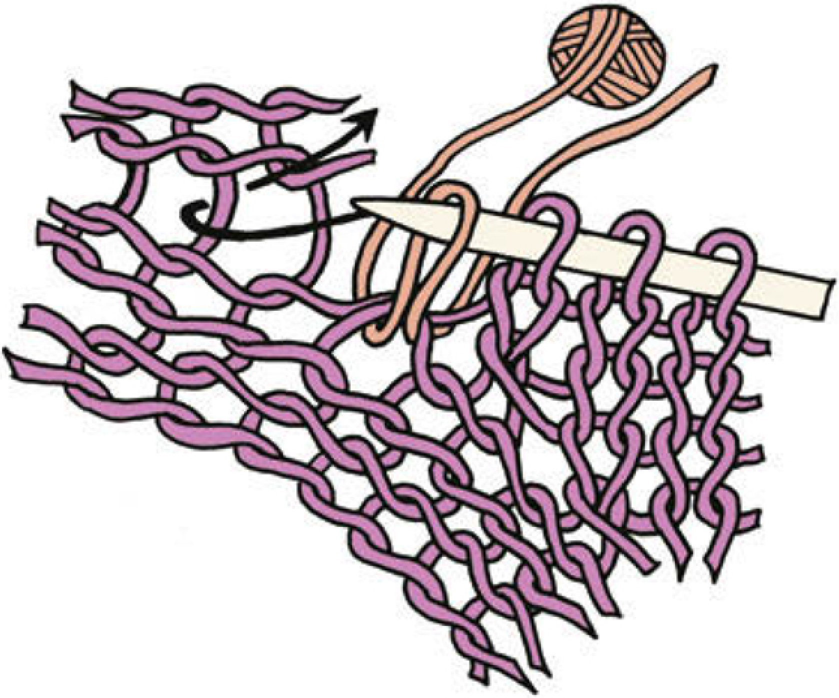


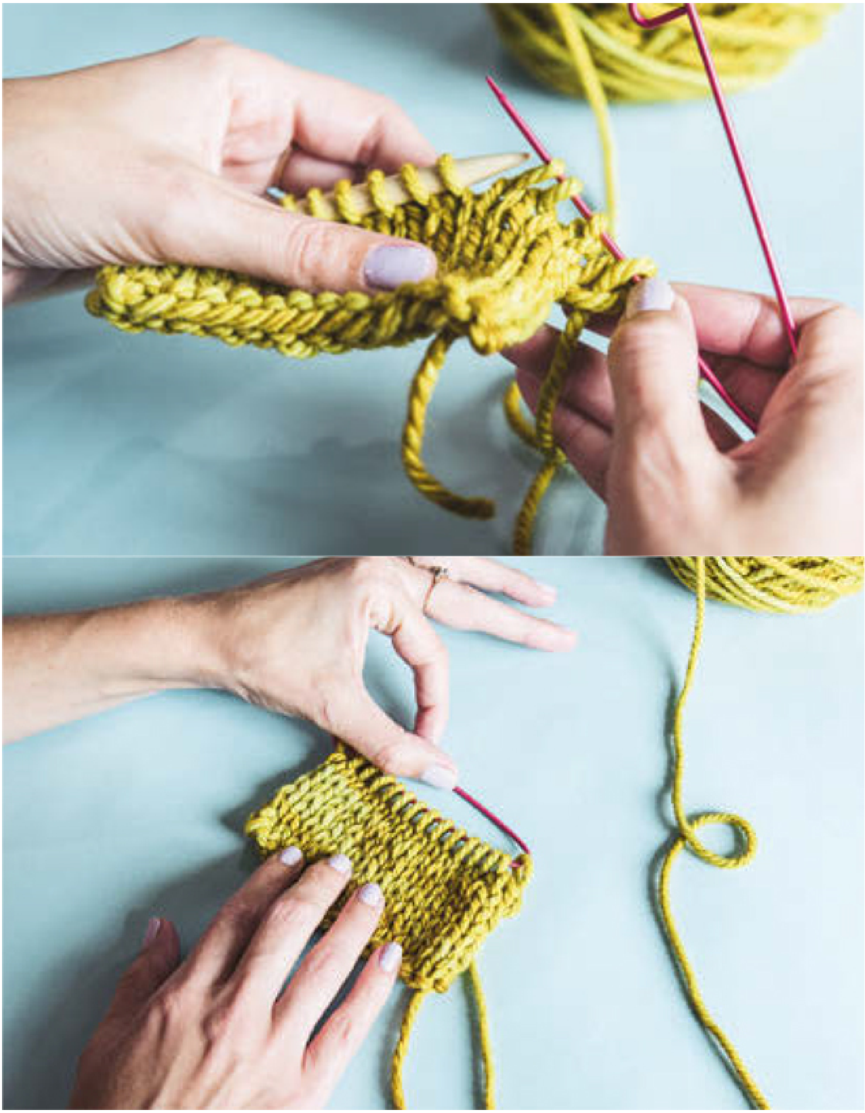


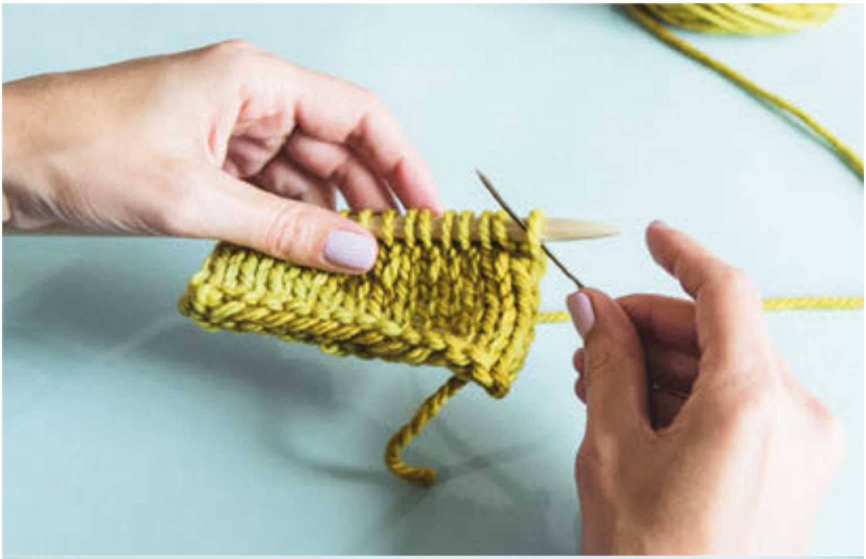


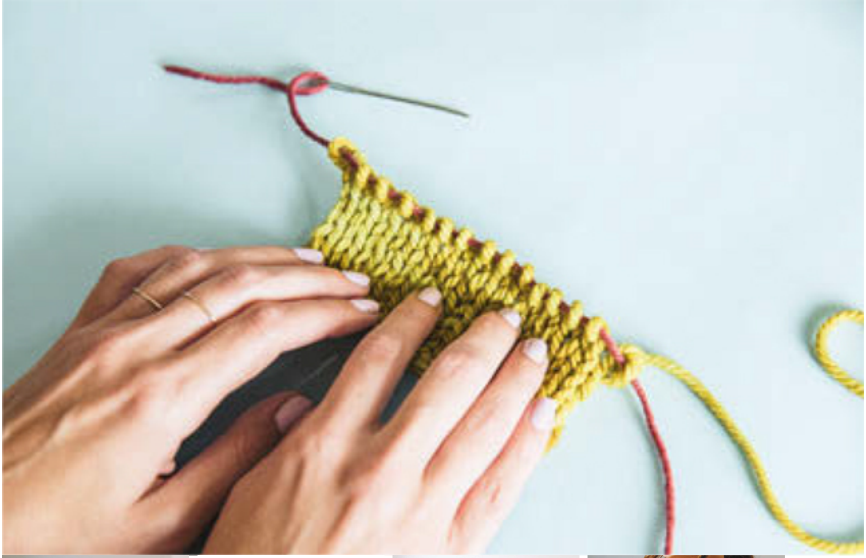








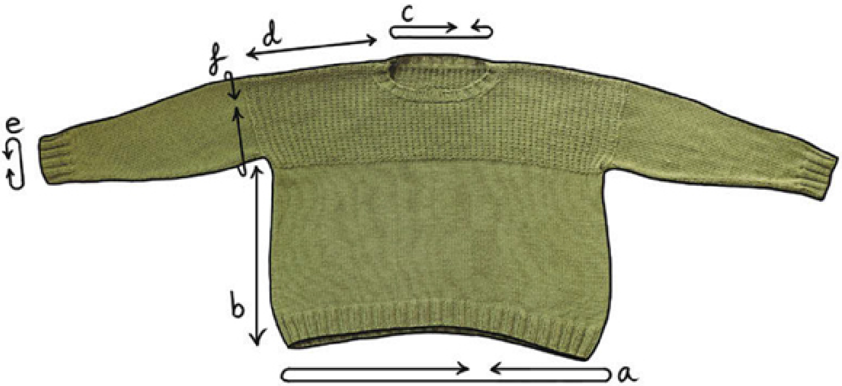


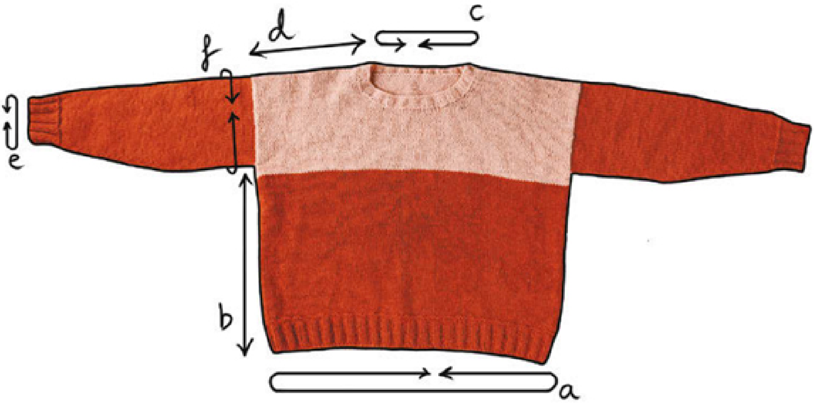


project 8

CHRIS AND JAMES

First Sweaters


c
d
f
e
b
a


d
c
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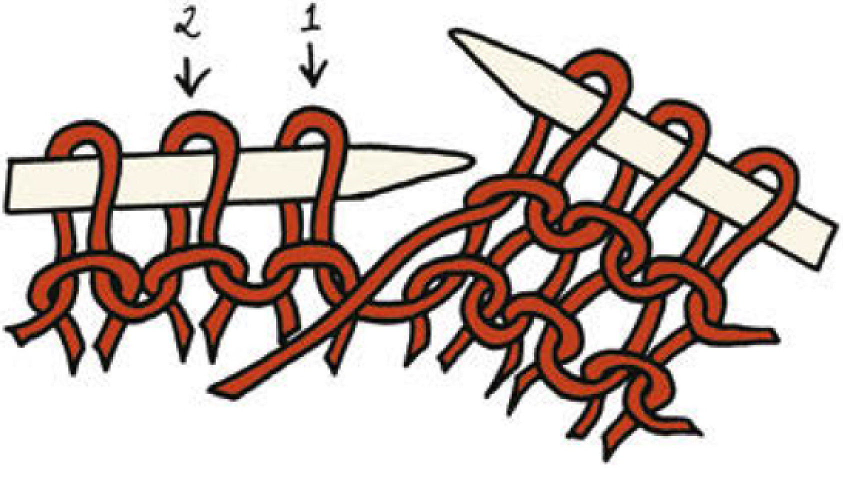
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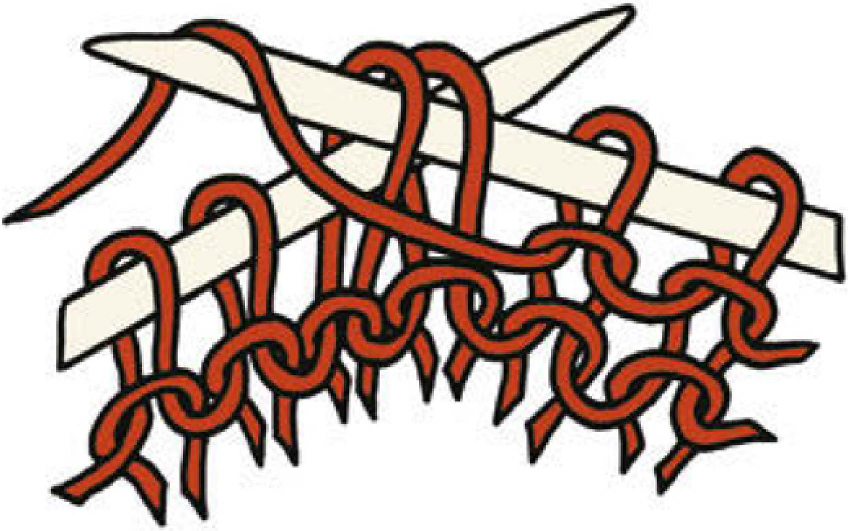
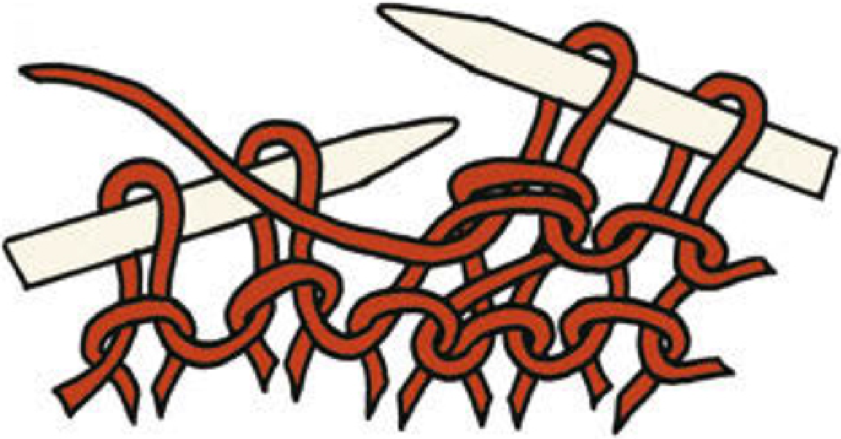
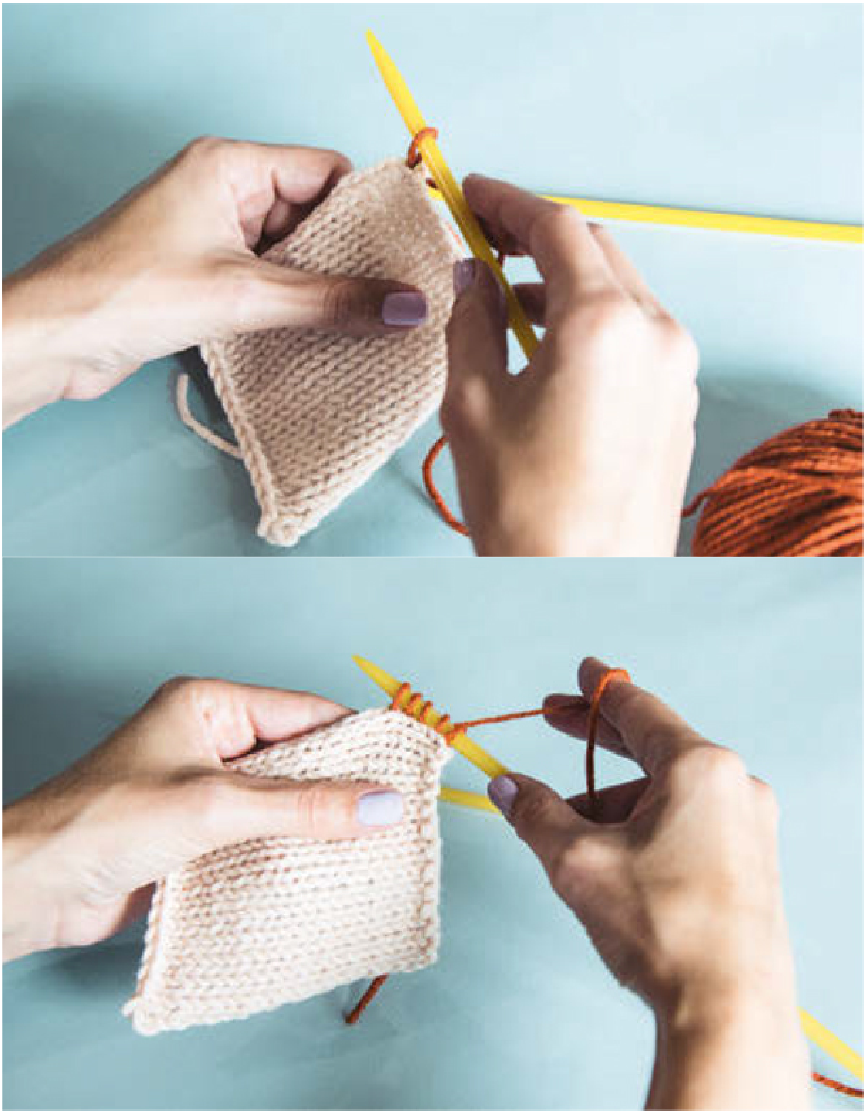
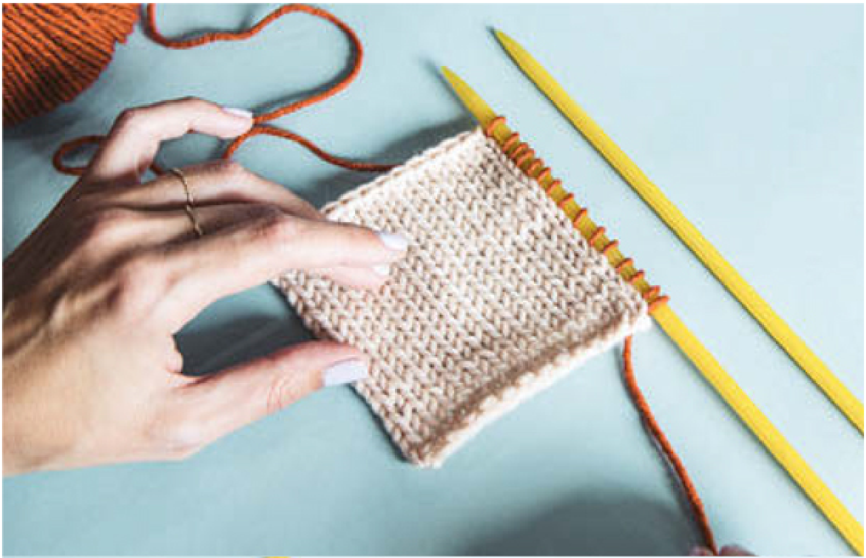
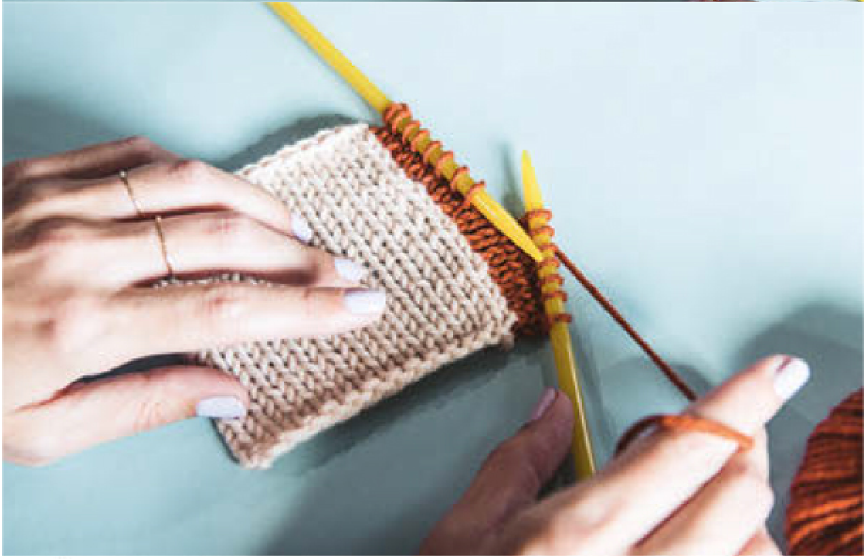
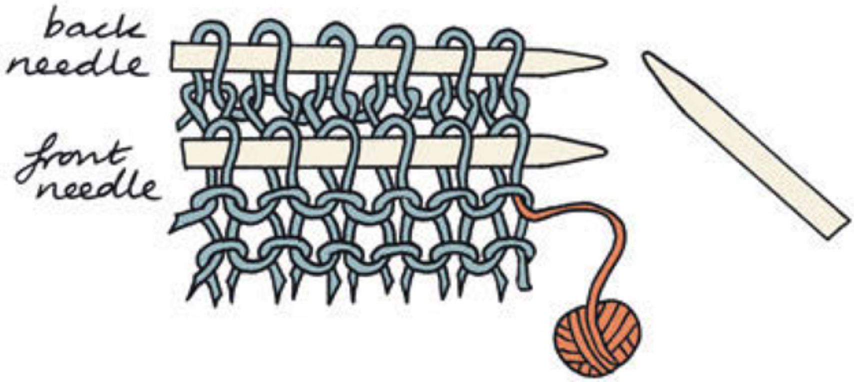


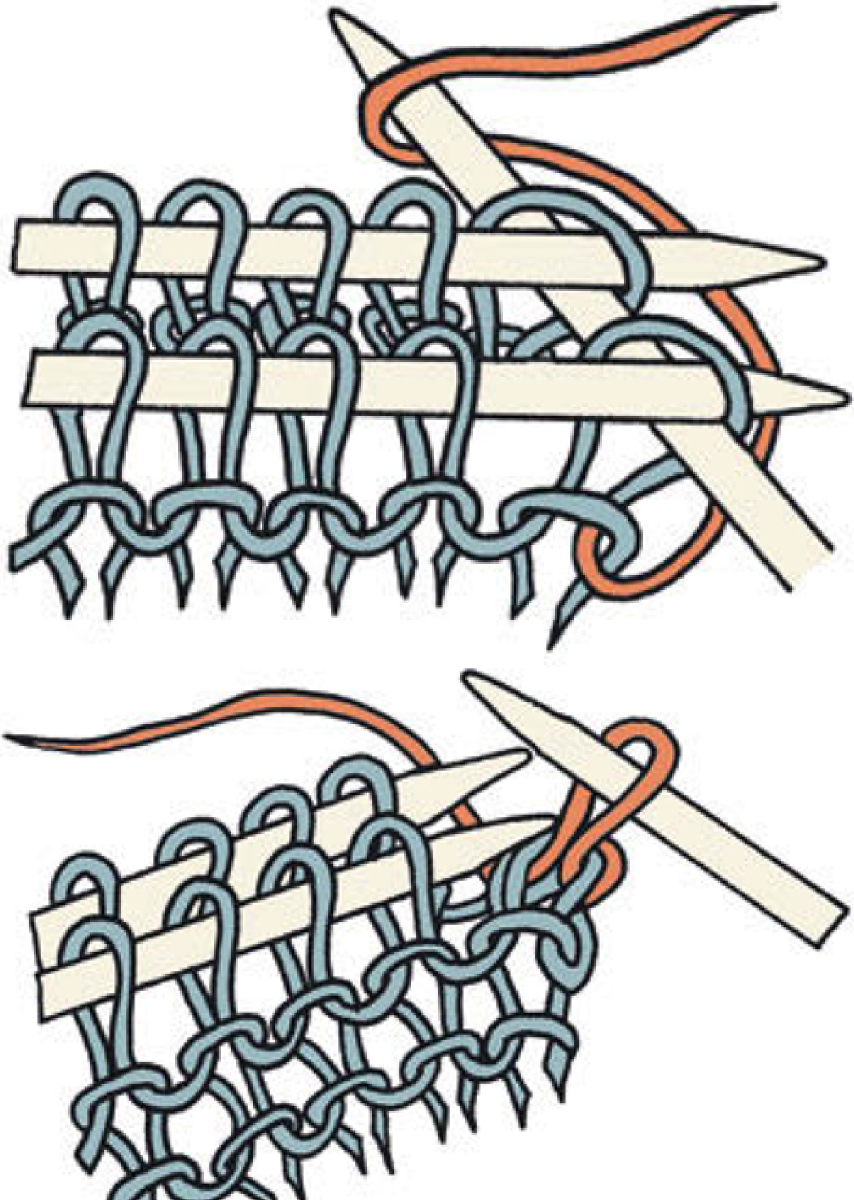


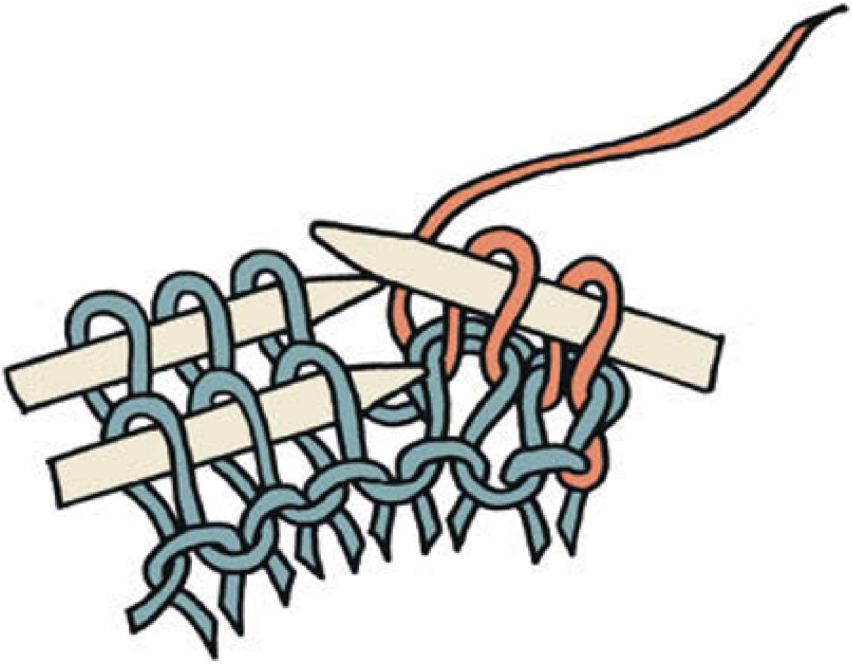


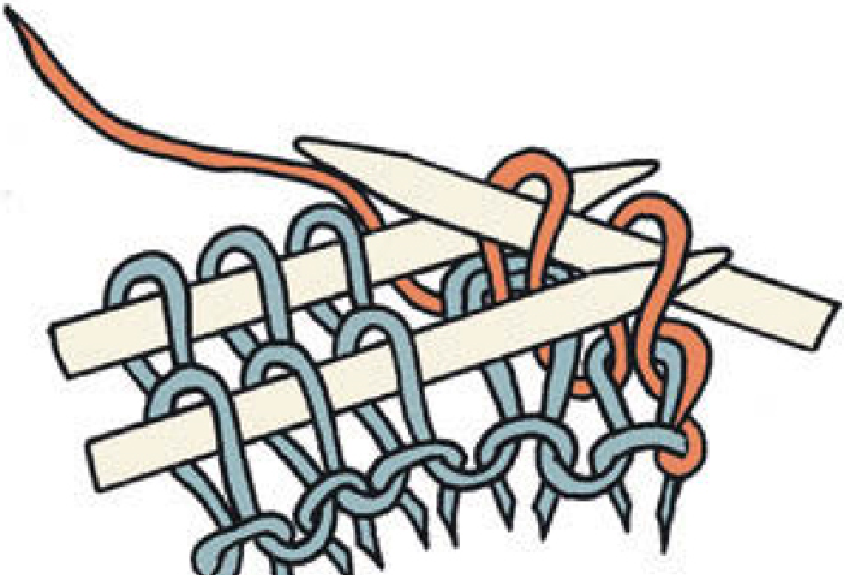


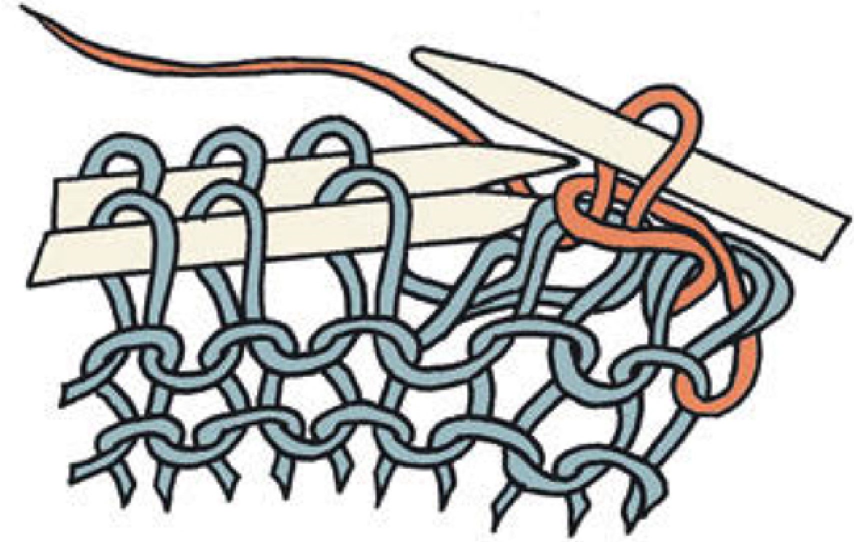



back needle
front needle





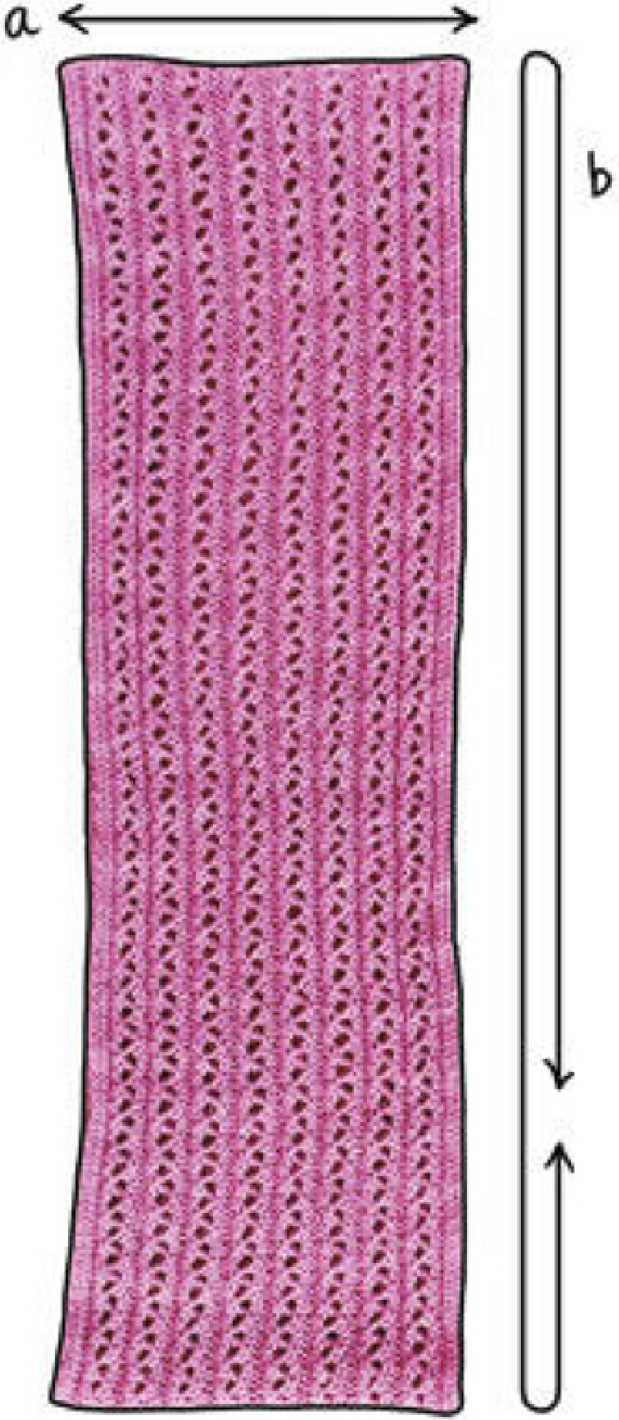


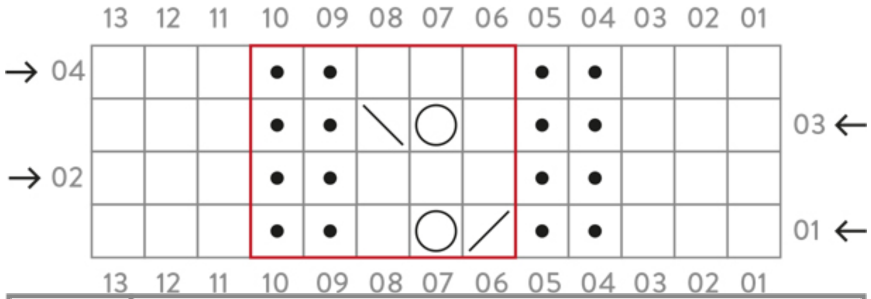


project 9

SARAH

Simple Lace Cowl


a
b



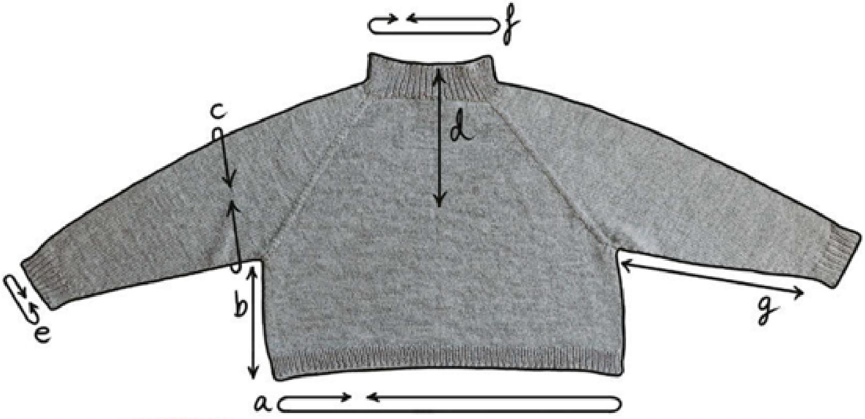
	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	
→ 04				●	●				●	●				
				●	●	\	○		●	●				03 ←
→ 02				●	●				●	●				
				●	●		○	/	●	●				01 ←
	13	12	11	10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	

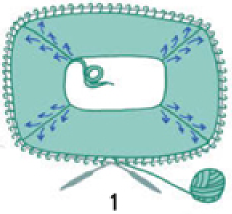
	knit on RS, purl on WS
●	purl on RS, knit on WS
○	yo
/	k2tog
\	ssk
☐	repeat

project 10

GAYLE

Raglan Pullover

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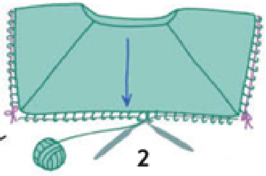
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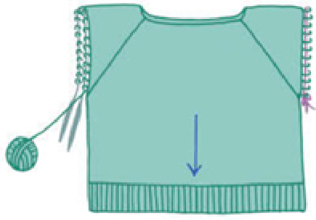
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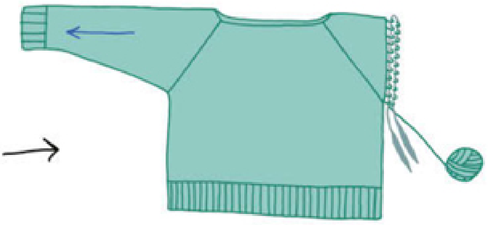
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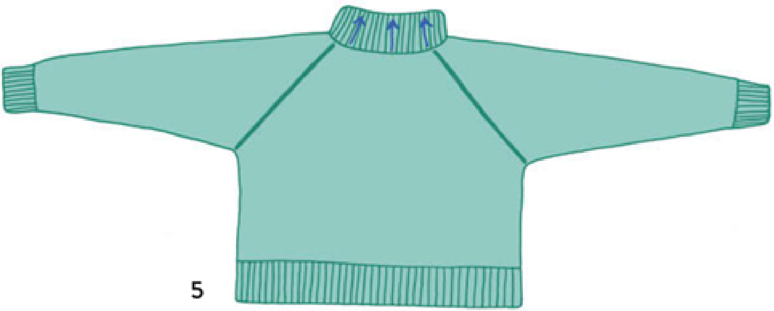
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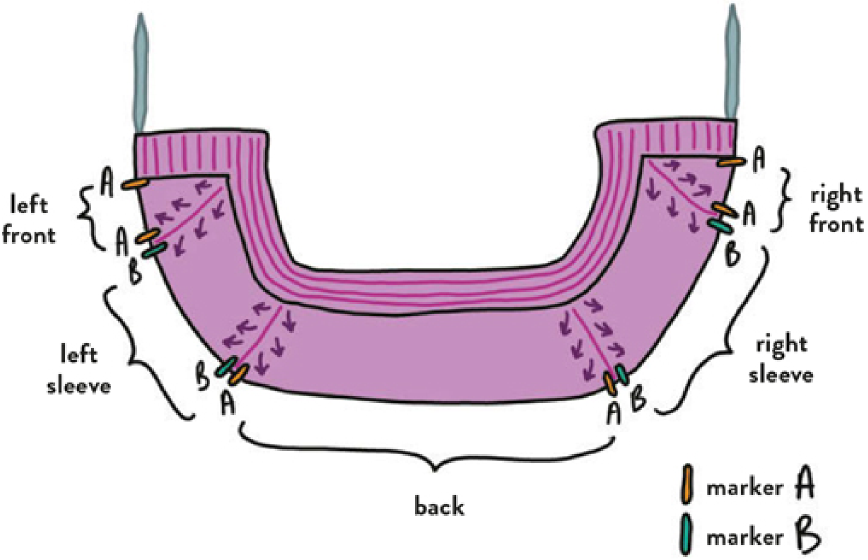
project 11

FRANKIE

First Cardigan



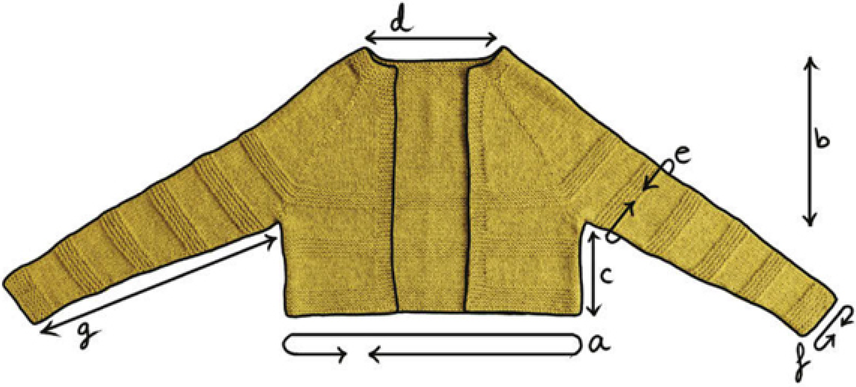
left front
A
A
B
left sleeve
B
A
back
A
B
right sleeve
right front
A
A
B
marker A
marker B

	Size 1	Size 2	Size 3	Size 4	Size 5	Size 6	Size 7	Size 8	Size 9	Size 10
Row	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type	Inc row type
1 (RS)	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
2 (WS)										
3	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
4										
5	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
6										
7	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
8										
9	B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
10										
11	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
12										
13	B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
14										
15	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
16										
17	B + S	B	B	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
18										
19		B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
20										
21	B + S	B	B	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
22										
23		B + S	B + S	B + S	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
24										
25	B + S		B	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
26										
27		B + S	B + S	B + S	B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S
28										
29	B + S			B	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B + S	B
30										
31		B + S	B + S	B + S	B	B + S	B + S	B	B	B + S
32										
33	B + S			B	B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B
34										
35		B + S	B + S	B + S	B	B + S	B + S	B	B	B + S
36										
37	B + S			B	B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B
38										
39		B + S	B + S	B + S	B	B + S	B + S	B	B	B + S
40										
41	B + S				B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B
42										
43		B + S	B + S	B + S	B	B + S	B + S	B	B	B + S
44										
45					B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B
46										
47		B + S	B + S	B + S	B	B + S	B + S	B	B	B + S
48										
49					B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B
50										
51			B + S	B + S		B + S	B + S	B	B	B + S
52										
53					B + S	B	B	B + S	B + S	B
54										
55						B + S	B + S	B	B	B + S
56										
57							B	B + S	B + S	B
58										
59							B + S	B	B	B + S
60										
61								B + S	B + S	B
62										
63								B	B	B + S
64										
65								B + S	B + S	B
66										
67									B	B + S
68										
69									B + S	B
70										
71									B	B + S
72										
73									B + S	B
74										
75										B + S
76										
77										B
78										
79										B + S
80										

how to follow this chart

B + S: Work Body and Sleeve Increase row.
B: Work Body Increase Only row

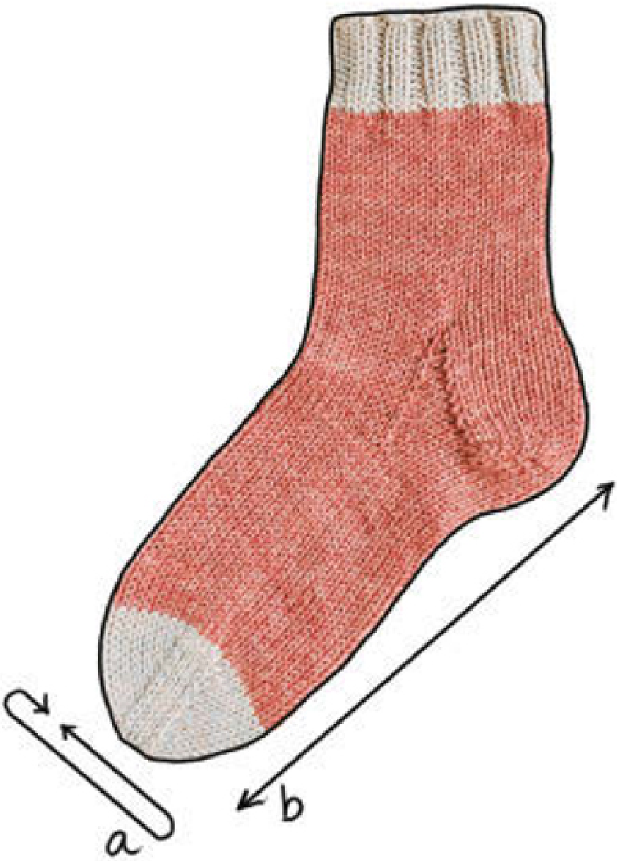
☐ White rows are worked in St st (apart from established Garter st front bands)
▨ Blue rows are worked in Garter st

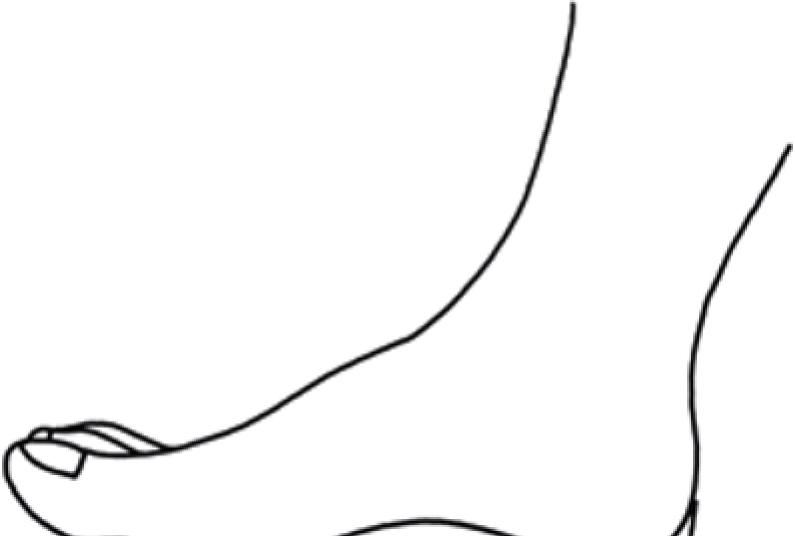


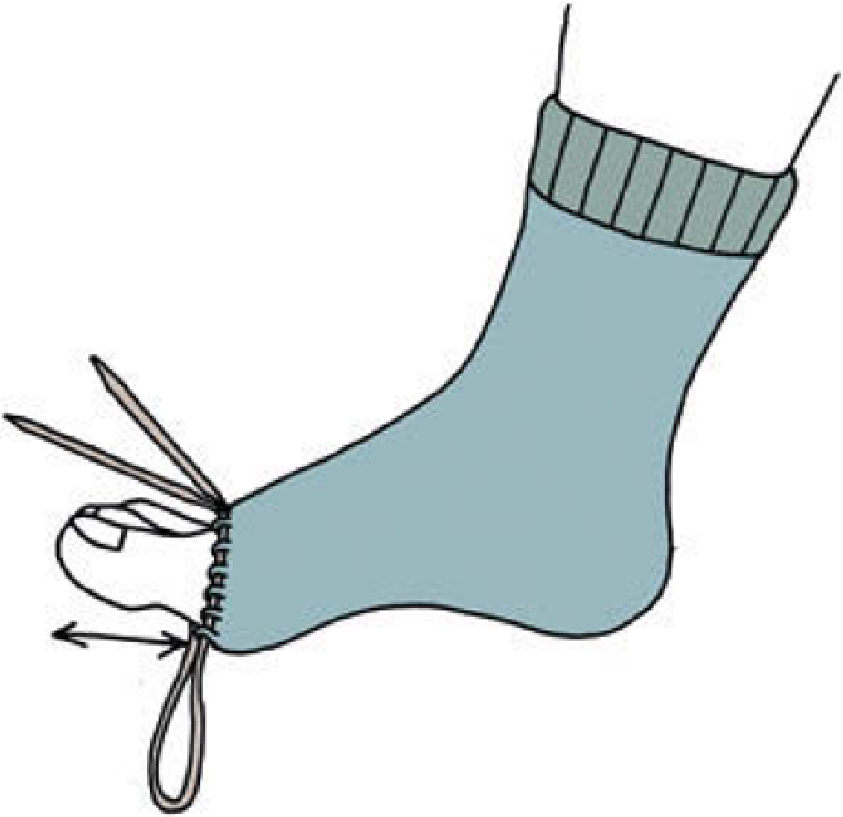
project 12

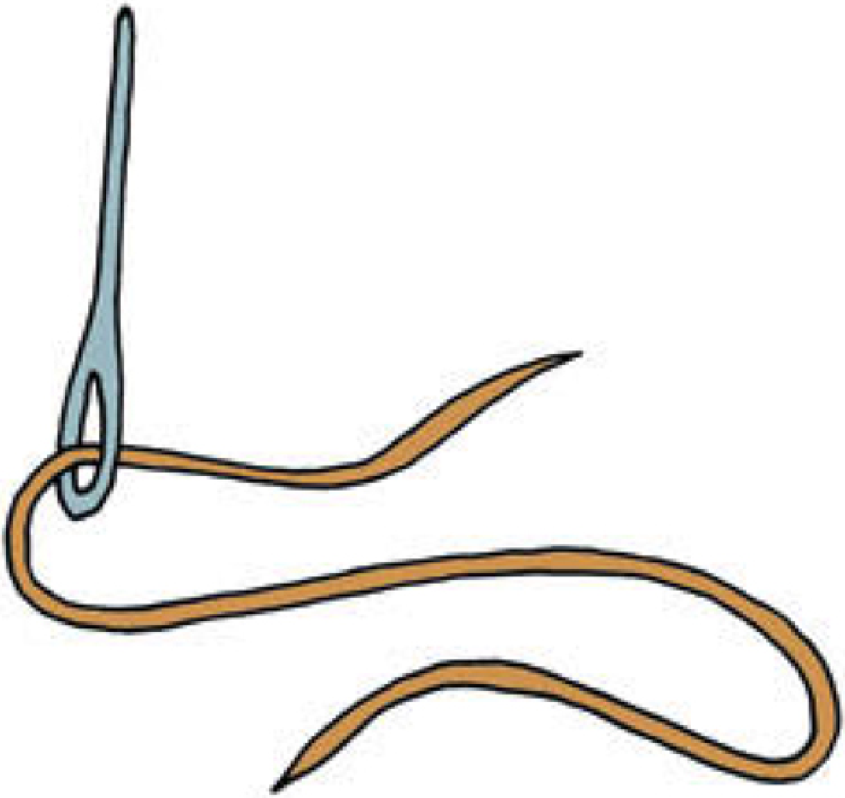
RACHEL

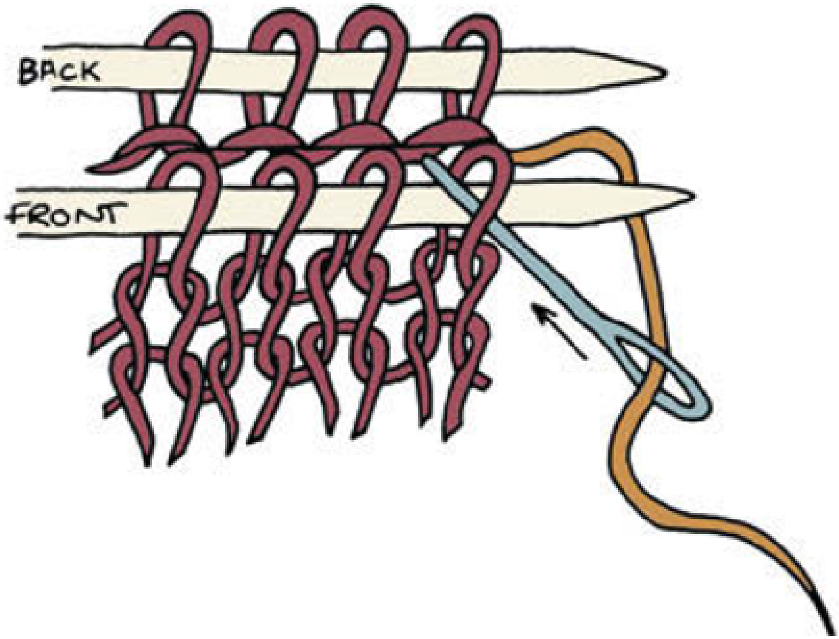
Simple Socks

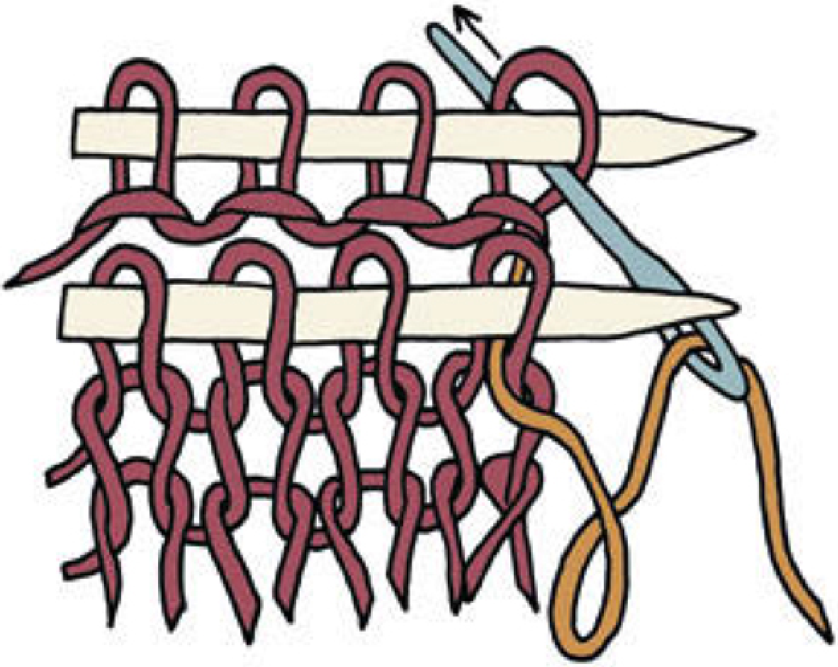

a
b

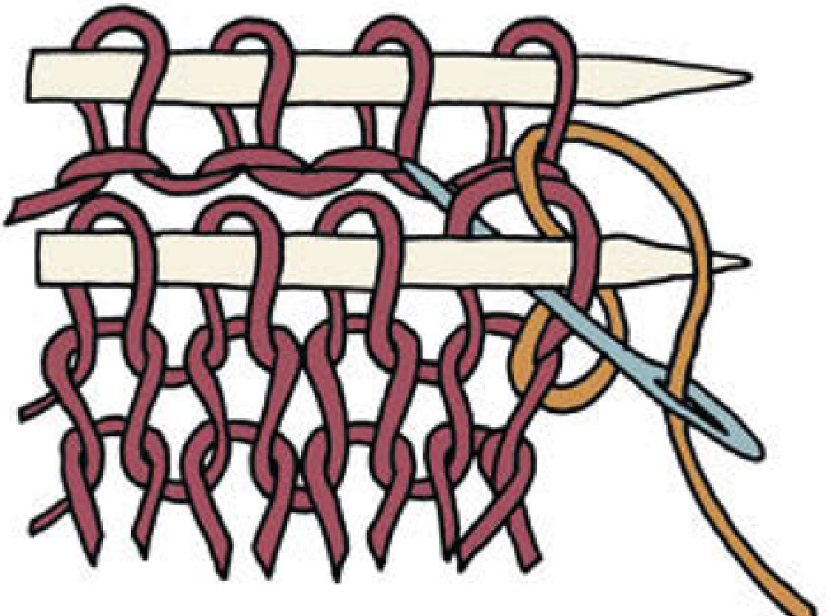


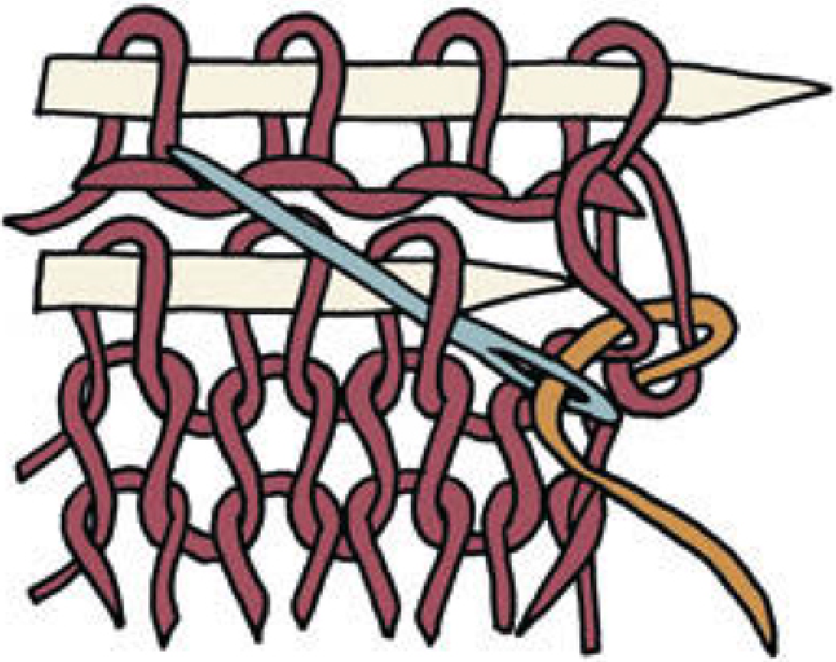


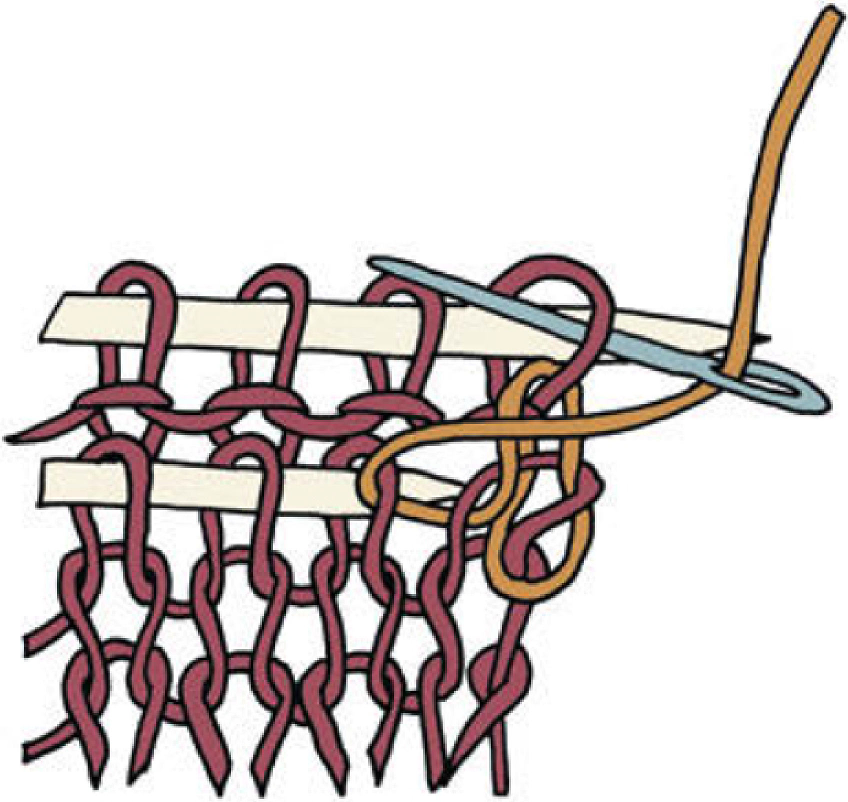


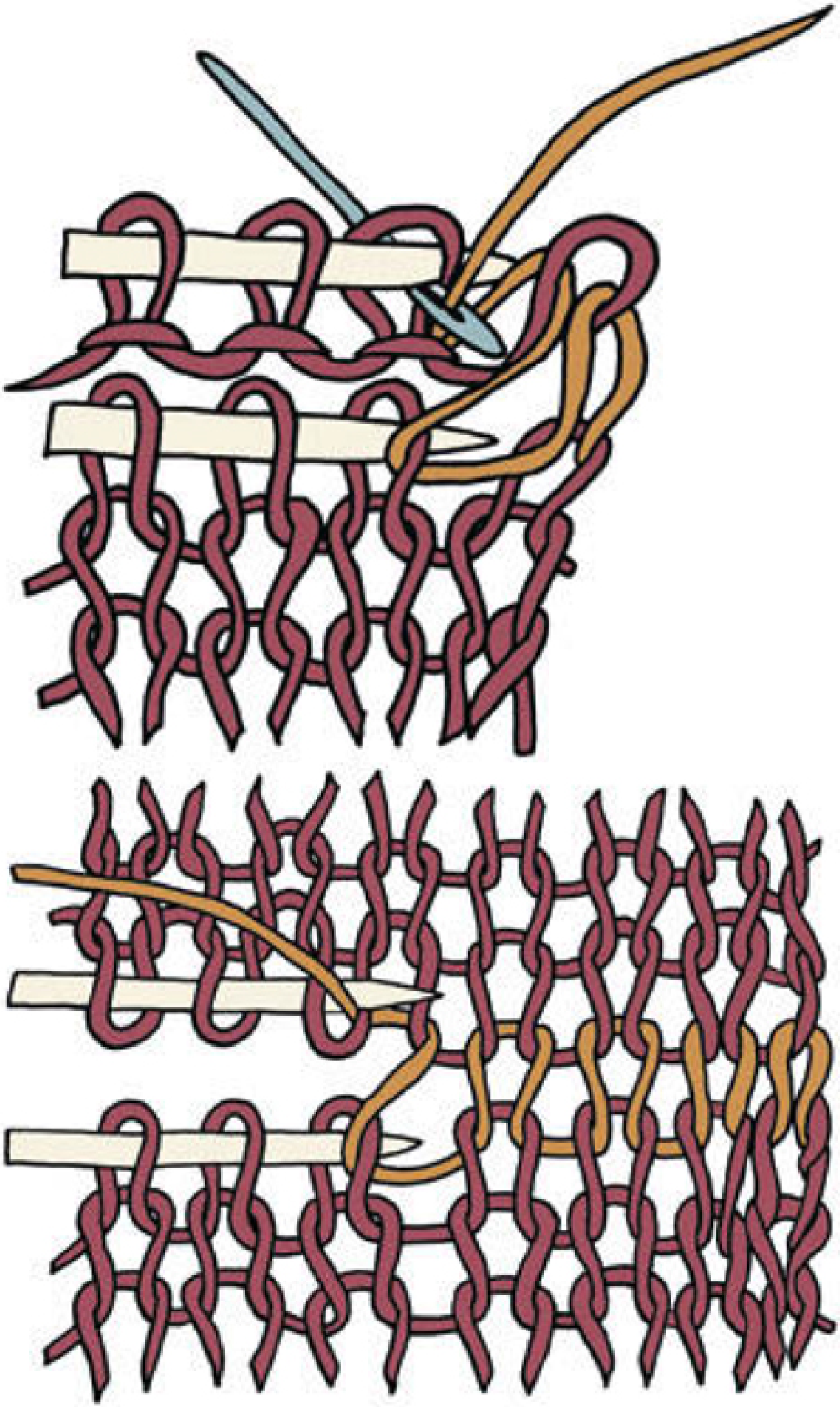

BACK
FRONT











PART 2

THE PROJECTS

Welcome to Part 2. Now that you’ve come to grips with the nuts and bolts of knits and purls, it’s time to embark on creating your own custom-knit wardrobe. Here we have all manner of knits for you to make, from mitts and hats to sweaters and socks. We have organized the projects in this order so that you can work through them from start to finish, picking up new techniques as you go. Don’t be put off if several techniques are introduced in one project; you won’t need to learn them simultaneously, but as you work through you will build on your knitting knowledge. One of the great things about knitting is that you can always unravel it and start again.

This might not sound very appealing at first, but how many areas of life are this forgiving? Remember that learning involves making mistakes, and at the end of this learning process you will have so many colorful and lovely things to show for the journey.

Of course, we know that working through from Project 1 to 12 might not be the best fit for everyone. That’s why we have supplied a list (right) of which techniques are introduced with each project, so you can see at a glance which you would like to dive into.

Project 1:

Cecelia Fingerless Mitts *(this page)*

Treat your knitter's hands to the luxury of handmade mitts.

- Recognizing a knit stitch vs. a purl stitch
- Ribbing
- Stockinette stitch
- Mattress stitch on stockinette stitch

Project 2:

Mary / Bobby / Juju:
Simple Cowls in Three Stitch Patterns *(this page)*

The neck's best thing to a scarf . . . a cowl!

- Seed stitch
- Broken rib
- Binding off in pattern
- Horizontal mattress stitch

Introduction to Knitting in the Round *(this page)*

Be like the Beach Boys and get around!

- Knitting in the round: 40 cm / 16" circular needles
- Using stitch markers
- Small-circumference knitting in the round: Double-Pointed Needles (DPNs) and Magic Loop

Project 3:

Geraldine Ribbed Beanie *(this page)*

Get ahead and knit a hat.

- Long-tail cast-on
- Decreasing (k2tog and ssk)
- Working in pattern with decreases
- Threading yarn through stitches

Project 4:

John and Juliet: Cuffs in the Round *(this page) Coming round to cuffs.*

- Slipping stitches knitwise and purlwise

Project 5:

Candice / Adrienne / Kristine: Three Simple Bandanas *(this page) A few bandanas short of a bunch.*

- Yarn overs
- Joining a new color
- How to carry yarn up the side of your work
- Backward loop cast-on

Project 6:

Fiona and Alice: Cabled Scarves *(this page) Textured twists for a classic scarf.*

- Cables
- Reading from charts
- How to make pom poms (optional)

Project 7:

Rosa Mittens in the Round *(this page) Magic mittens for frosty days.*

- Increasing (M1L and M1R)
- Garter stitch in the round
- Picking up stitches
- Putting stitches on hold (using waste yarn)

Project 8:

Chris and James: First Sweaters *(this page) Don't sweat your first sweater!*

- Picking up stitches
- Three-needle bind-off
- Decreasing (p2tog)

Project 9:

Sarah Simple Lace Cowl *(this page) How to get ace at lace.*

- Reading boxed repeats on charts
- Working yarn overs and decreases together

Project 10:

Gayle Raglan Pullover *(this page) Get your glad rag(lan)s on.*

- Working from the top down
- Raglan construction

Project 11:

Frankie First Cardigan *(this page) Oh, this? Just a cardigan that I made.*

- Knitting flat on circular needles
- Working “at the same time” instructions

Project 12:

Rachel Simple Socks *(this page) Make sure you’re cozy from head to toe.*

- Short rows
- Grafting (aka Kitchener stitch)

project 1: **FINGERLESS MITTS**

You can cast on. You can knit. You can purl. We believe in you. YOU CAN MAKE THESE MITTS. While making them, you are going to put those knits and purls to use AND you are going to mix the two stitches together to create different stitch patterns. The cuffs of the mitts are worked in **1 × 1 rib** (shown this page), which is the alternating of knit and purl stitches in the same row. The rest of the mitt is worked in **stockinette stitch** (also called stocking stitch, shown this page), wherein one row is knit and the next row is purled to create a pleasingly flat fabric on one side. In a beautiful semi-solid, hand-dyed yarn, these mitts are addictive to make. We suggest a pair for every member of your family this gift-giving season.

notes on construction:

The mitts are knit from the bottom cuff up to the top of the opening for your fingers. Each mitt is worked in one flat piece, which is then folded in half and seamed, leaving an opening for the thumbhole.

techniques you need to know:

- The knitted cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Binding off (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

new techniques:

- Recognizing a knit stitch vs. a purl stitch
- Ribbing
- Stockinette stitch
- Mattress stitch on stockinette stitch

1x1 Rib

Stockinette Stitch

top tip: parentheses and brackets

Most patterns include multiple sizes, providing different instructions for each size. Sizes are organized in a parenthetical list, and instructions follow the same sequence throughout. So, if we knit size 2 of our mitts from the size list 1 (2, 3), we follow the second number throughout and cast on 41 stitches when instructed to “cast on 37 (41, 45) sts.” Be sure to distinguish stitch counts in parentheses from repeating stitches in brackets, which all sizes follow—e.g., [k1, p1] in the cuff.

all about abbreviations

For your first pattern, we thought we’d give you a leg up with the abbreviations used. For future patterns, all abbreviations are listed in the back of this book (see this page) for easy reference.

knit

p	purl
St(s)	Stitch(es)
St st	Stockinette stitch
rep	repeat
RS	Right side of fabric
WS	Wrong side of fabric

pattern 1CECELIA fingerless mitts

Sizes: 1 (2, 3)

Finished circumference at widest point:
18 (19.5, 21.5) cm / 7 (7¾, 8½)"

Finished length: 19 cm / 7½"

Yarn: The Uncommon Thread Merino DK (DK / light worsted weight; 100% superwash extrafine merino wool; 200 m / 220 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Fe203 (*orange*) OR Attic Room (*brown*) OR Confetti (*gray*); 1 skein

OR approx 115 (127, 139) m / 126 (139, 152) yds of DK / light worsted weight yarn

Gauge: 20 sts & 30 rows = 10 cm / 4" over stockinette stitch on 4-mm / US 6 needles after blocking

Needles: 4 mm / US 6 knitting needles 4.5 mm / US 7 knitting needles for bind-off (optional) Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: Tapestry needle

PATTERNcuff (make 2 alike)

Leaving a long tail of at least 15 cm / 6" and using the knitted cast-on method, cast on 37 (41, 45) sts.

Row 1 (RS): [K1, p1] to last st, k1.

Row 2 (WS): [P1, k1] to last st, p1.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 until Cuff measures 8 cm / 3" from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row (Row 2).

hand

Continue by working in St st as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 until mitt measures 16.5 cm / 6½" from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row (Row 2).

Continue in 1 × 1 rib as follows:

Row 1 (RS): [K1, p1] to last st, k1.

Row 2 (WS): [P1, k1] to last st, p1.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 for 2.5 cm / 1", until mitt measures 19 cm / 7½" from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row (Row 2).

Bind off quite loosely in 1 × 1 rib pattern (if desired, use a larger needle to achieve a flexible edge).

FINISHING

Block the mitts by allowing them to soak for at least 15 minutes in lukewarm water. Remove from the water, squeezing gently to remove excess water. Lay flat to dry, pinning the edges flat if necessary. Once completely dry, seam the two side edges together with mattress stitch (this page) as follows: Using the long cast-on tail, seam from the bottom upward for 10 cm / 4". Leave a gap of 5 cm / 2" for the thumbhole, then, using a new length of yarn, begin seaming again to top of mitt.

Weave in ends. Gently steam or re-block your mitts to measurements after seaming, if needed.

a. Finished circumference at widest point: 18 (19.5, 21.5) cm / 7 (7¾, 8½)"
b. Finished length: 19 cm / 7½"

ribbing

1. Here the last stitch on the right-hand needle has been knit, and the next stitch should be purled. The yarn is “in back,” meaning it’s behind the needles, as this is the correct position for the working yarn for knit stitches.

2. To get ready to purl, you need your working yarn to be in front of your needles, on the side facing you. To move your working yarn from back to front, pass it between the needles, as shown.

3. The working yarn is now at the front of the work. You are ready to purl.

4. Here the last stitch on the right-hand needle was purled, and the next stitch should be knit. The yarn is “in front,” as this is the correct position for the working yarn for purl stitches.

5. To get ready to knit the next stitch, you need your working yarn to be behind (in back of) your needles, on the side farthest from you. To move your working yarn from front to back, pass it between your needles, as shown.

6. You are now ready to knit the next stitch. As you continue to work your ribbing, you will pass your yarn from back to front to purl and front to back to knit.

vertical mattress stitch on stockinette stitch

If you gently pull your knitting widthwise, you’ll see little horizontal bars of yarn, like rungs of a ladder, that run behind these stitches. You’ll be picking these up when you seam.

1. Thread a tapestry needle with your working yarn or a matching yarn (here we’re using a contrast color to make it clear). Arrange your knitting so right sides are facing up. Insert your tapestry needle into the horizontal bar between the first and second stitches.

2. On the opposite side of the seam, insert your tapestry needle under the corresponding horizontal bar.

3. Weave back and forth to join the two sides together, passing your tapestry needle under the next rung of the ladder in between the stitches.

4. Gently pull both ends of your yarn to close the seam. And just like magic, the seam is invisible. Repeat step 3, weaving back and forth, and taking the time every couple of stitches to pull your yarn ends to close the seam. To finish, weave in the ends.

RECOGNIZING STITCHES

Knitters often need to know whether they are working on the right or the wrong side of their fabric (see this page for a reminder). You can ensure you are on the correct side by learning to recognize stitches by sight; knitters call this “reading” your knitting.

knit stitch

A knit stitch will look like the letter “V.” Imagine the loops on your needle are the heads of little people and each one is wearing a scarf over their shoulders, with the ends dangling over their chest. This is what you should see when you have worked a knit stitch.

purl stitch

A purl stitch will look like a bump just under the stitch on your needle. You might like to think of this as a pearl (purl) necklace draped around the neck of this stitch to help you remember.

twisted stitch

A twisted stitch is not the end of the world, but it will make your knitting look, well, twisted. Think of the two sides of the loop that sits on your needle as a pair of legs running toward the tip of your needle. In the first stitch, the front leg is stepping forward first in the race (which is the correct position). For the second stitch, the leg that is leaning forward is the back leg, making this a twisted stitch. You may notice when you come to knit this stitch that it is not as easy to enter the loop, so check if it’s twisted. (Need to fix a twisted stitch? See how on this page.)

project 2:SIMPLE COWLS IN THREE STITCH PATTERNS

Cowls are much like a scarf but shorter, joined into a loop, and quicker to make. These three cowls are all the same length and will achieve the same purpose (coziness), but each showcases a different stitch pattern. You can choose among trusty **garter stitch** (the same squishy stitch used for the coasters from Part 1), **seed stitch** (one of our faves), and a slightly fancier **broken rib**. All these stitch patterns are great ways to get more acquainted with the various ways knit and purl stitches can combine to create different textures. If you are so inclined, making all three wouldn't be a bad idea. But, of course, you can always just choose a fave and make that one.

notes on construction:

These cowls are made by knitting a rectangle of fabric that is then seamed to create a loop. The two short ends of the rectangle (the cast-on and bind-off ends) are the ones that are seamed.

techniques you need to know:

- The knitted cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Binding off (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Seed stitch
- Broken rib
- Binding off in pattern
- Horizontal mattress stitch

notes: Like so many things in knitting, the stitch patterns are better understood by doing rather than explaining. Even if you don't go ahead and make whole cowls, it's worth making a swatch of each.

what is seed stitch and is it like seeds?

Well, it definitely doesn't have to be seedy. Seed stitch, also known as moss stitch in the UK, is created by staggering single rows of k1, p1. Each row has the same sequence as it would for a 1 × 1 rib (as seen in Project 1), but rather than stacking columns of knits on top of each other and purls in the same way, each column alternates between the two like a checkerboard.

broken rib? sounds painful!

Broken rib is a combination of rib and seed stitch, with stacked columns of knits and purls separated by columns of alternating knits and purls. So the name just refers to the fact that the columns of knit and purl stitches are broken up by a different texture.

top tip: binding off in pattern

In this pattern, we ask you to "bind off in pattern." This means that rather than knitting each stitch before passing them over to fasten off, you knit or purl them as appropriate.

Garter Stitch

Seed Stitch

Broken Rib

pattern 2.1MARYgarter stitch cowl

One size: 22 cm / 8¾" wide x 91.5 cm / 36" circumference

Yarn: Malabrigo Chunky (bulky weight; 100% merino wool; 95 m / 100 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Periwinkle; 2 skeins

OR approx 171 m / 187 yds of bulky weight yarn

Gauge: 12 sts & 24 rows = 10 cm / 4" over garter stitch on 8-mm / US 11 needles after blocking

Needles: 8 mm / US 11 knitting needles

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: Tapestry needle

PATTERN

Using the knitted cast-on method, cast on 26 sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Rep Row 1 until piece measures 91.5 cm / 36" (or desired length) from cast-on edge, ensuring you have enough yarn rem to bind off with—you will need a length of yarn at least three times the width of the piece.

Bind off.

FINISHING

Seam the short ends of the cowl together using horizontal mattress stitch (see this page).

Weave in ends and block to measurements (see this page).

a. Width: 22 cm / 8¾"
b. Circumference: 91.5 cm / 36"

pattern 2.2 BOBBY seed stitch cowl

One size: 21 cm / 8¼" wide x 91.5 cm / 36" circumference

Yarn: Malabrigo Chunky (bulky weight; 100% merino wool; 95 m / 104 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Frank Ochre; 2 skeins

OR approx 169 m / 185 yds of bulky weight yarn

Gauge: 13 sts & 20 rows = 10 cm / 4" over seed stitch on 8-mm / US 11 needles after blocking

Needles: 8 mm / US 11 knitting needles

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: Tapestry needle

PATTERN

Using the knitted cast-on method, cast on 27 sts.

Row 1: [K1, p1] to last st, k1.

Rep Row 1 to form seed stitch (a knit stitch on top of a purl stitch and a purl on top of a knit) until piece measures 91.5 cm / 36" (or desired length) from cast-on edge, ensuring you have enough yarn rem to bind off with—you will need a length of yarn at least three times the width of the piece.

Bind off in pattern.

FINISHING

Seam the short ends of the cowl together using horizontal mattress stitch (see this page).

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Width: 21 cm / 8¼"
b. Circumference: 91.5 cm / 36"

pattern 2.3 **JUJUbroken rib cowl**

One size: 17 cm / 6¾" wide x 91.5 cm / 36" circumference

Yarn: Malabrigo Chunky (bulky weight; 100% merino wool; 95 m / 104 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Water Green; 2 skeins

OR approx 132 m / 144 yds of bulky weight yarn

Gauge: 16 sts & 20 rows = 10 cm / 4" over broken rib on 8-mm / US 11 needles after blocking

Needles: 8 mm / US 11 knitting needles

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: Tapestry needle

PATTERN

Using the knitted cast-on method, cast on 27 sts.

Row 1: [K2, p2] to last 3 sts, k2, p1.

Rep Row 1 until piece measures 91.5 cm / 36" (or desired length) from cast-on edge, ensuring you have enough yarn rem to bind off with—you will need a length of yarn at least three times the width of the piece.

Bind off in pattern.

FINISHING

Seam the short ends of the cowl together using horizontal mattress stitch (see this page).

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Width: 17 cm / 6¾"
b. Circumference: 91.5 cm / 36"

horizontal mattress stitch seaming

1. With right sides up and bound off edges parallel, thread your darning needle (contrast yarn is shown here but you will probably want to use the same color as your knit!). Start by bringing your needle up through the center of the first stitch on the left, following the path of the arrow.

2. Next pass your needle under the two legs of the stitch on the bottom right, then bring it up to the right side of the work, following the path of the arrow.

3. Now insert your needle back into the center of the first stitch you brought the yarn up through, this time running it under two legs again.

4. Work the next step as step 2 but inserting the needle under the two legs of the next stitch along.

5. Work as step 3 but inserting the needle under the two legs of the next stitch along.

6. Continue to seam, repeating the motion back and forth between the two pieces as set until the pieces are joined. Finally, you can pull the yarn tight to“zip up” the seam.

INTRODUCTION TO KNITTING IN THE ROUND

Knitting in the round, or circular knitting, opens up a whole new world to knitters. Instead of going back and forth in rows, you work in rounds to create a spiral that grows into a tube of knitting. Lots of items you will want to knit—for example, hats, mitts, sleeves, socks, even some sweaters—are nothing but slightly modified tubes, so it's handy to be able to create tubes of fabric without seams.

There are three ways to knit in the round. You can use circular needles, which are simply needle tips attached to each other with a cord. The cord comes in various lengths, which you can choose depending on what you are going to make. Once you've cast on the correct number of stitches, you bend the cord to join the last stitch you cast on to the first stitch. This leaves them sitting next to each other to make a circle out of the stitches on your needles. You'll see what we're talking about on this page. For smaller circumferences, you'll need to use double-pointed needles (see this page), or a long circular needle and a technique called Magic Loop (see this page). Sounds fun, right? We recommend trying out each technique with some spare yarn before you dive into your project. This will help you decide which method you prefer and get comfortable using it.

Knitting in the round is a fundamental skill you'll return to again and again, and it's very satisfying once you get the hang of it. Your knitting grows quickly, and there are fewer seams to sew up when you're done, so you can wear your handknit sooner. Aside from being quick, seamless knitting is slinky, comfortable, and flows over the body. Seams can rub unpleasantly in some garments (like socks) or interfere with complex color patterns. Now don't get us wrong: We aren't saying seams should be banned. Seams can create tailoring, strength, and structure, so they definitely have their place. But the more ways you have to create fabric, the better stocked your toolbox will be and the more possibilities you have. We love knitting in the round, and we hope you do too!

Let's talk more about the three different ways to knit in the round: circular needles, double-pointed needles, and Magic Loop. The method you choose will depend first on the circumference of the thing you want to knit. Think about the difference in circumference of the body of a sweater versus the cuff of a mitten. It's a big difference! Anything with a circumference larger than 40 cm / 16" can be made with a circular needle. For smaller circumferences, you'll need to use double-pointed needles or the Magic Loop technique, whichever you prefer. This is because the tips of shorter circular needles can't bend around small pieces of knitting.

The easiest way to get started with knitting in the round is with a pair of 40 cm / 16" circular needles, which just so happens to be the correct length (or circumference, once you’re knitting in the round) to make a hat.

Here we have two tutorials: a quick drawing to show you how joining to work in the round happens, and a photo tutorial to show more detail.

how to join to work in the round

These drawings show very simply how joining cast-on stitches in the round happens. The photo tutorial on this page will take you step-by-step through exactly what you need to do.

1. Cast on and ensure your stitches are not twisted. To mark the beginning of your round, place a stitch marker on the right-hand needle (see this page).

2. The first stitch of the round will be the first cast-on stitch. Maneuver your needles so your needle with the working yarn is the right-hand needle and insert it into the first stitch to knit.

how to join to work in the round

1. Cast on your required number of stitches. In these photos, we've used a *long-tail* cast-on, as used in the Geraldine Ribbed Beanie pattern on this page. It's important to make sure that your stitches are not twisted. In the photo above, the stitches are sitting correctly.

Note: This is what you do not want! The cast-on has spiraled around the knitting needle cord, making the cast-on twisted. Rectify this by rearranging the stitches so the cast-on is a neat line, as shown in step 1.

2. In your right hand, place the needle that holds your last cast-on stitch (with your working yarn attached to it). Place a stitch marker on your right-hand needle.

3. Begin the round by knitting the first stitch on your left-hand needle by inserting your right-hand needle.

4. Wrap the right-hand needle with your working yarn, draw this loop through, and guide the stitch off your left-hand needle. That's knitting in the round.

5. Continue by knitting each stitch. Here you can see we've now knit two stitches. You'll work around the circle. When you get to your stitch marker, simply pass this from one needle to the other.

You can see at left that the last stitch you cast on is now cozied up to the first stitch you cast on and your stitches are in a circle. As you work in the round, you won't ever need to turn your knitting as you did with straight needles; the right side of the work will always be facing you. This means that to achieve stockinette stitch in circular knitting, you only ever have to do the knit stitch. Conversely, if you want to do garter stitch, you will have to alternate knit and purl rounds.

stitch markers

You may have noticed how we used a stitch marker to signal the beginning and end of a round. Because you are now working in a spiral, it’s much harder to see where one round ends and the next begins without some kind of indicator. Stitch markers are handy tools that can be used for other things, too, like marking where to make increases or decreases. If you don’t have stitch markers, you can always make one by knotting a small piece of contrasting yarn into a loop.

You’ll know when to put a marker on your needle because your pattern will say “PM,” meaning “place marker.”

how to use stitch markers

1. Stitch markers sit on your needle in between stitches. Place them on your needle as shown.

2. Here is a stitch marker in between two stitches.

3. When you reach a marker . . .

4. Simply slip it from your left-hand to right-hand needle and carry on knitting or purling.

5. Here are some examples of stitch markers.

knitting in the round: small circumferences

When it comes to knitting small circumferences, you have two choices: double-pointed needles or the Magic Loop technique. Regular circular needles won't cut it once your circumference falls below 40 cm / 16" because the small number of stitches needed won't stretch around the length of a circular needle.

The method you choose is entirely up to you. The end result is the same; it's only a question of which one you find easier. We list below the pros and cons of each technique so you can make an informed decision.

double-pointed needles

Double-pointed needles, or DPNs, are sets of four or five needles that, you guessed it, are pointed at both ends. You cast your stitches onto one DPN and redistribute them over three to four needles, depending on your pattern. You then use a spare DPN to knit into these stitches (see tutorial on this page).

Pros: DPNs are the more traditional tool, and some patterns are written with them in mind, especially if you try knitting vintage patterns.

Cons: There are four or five small needles in a set, and it's easy to misplace a needle over time. Some people find having to juggle four or five needles at one time very fiddly. There is also a higher likelihood of *laddering*, which means a small but visible gap that can appear where the needles meet (because there are more places where needles meet). Tightening your stitches at these locations will minimize laddering.

how to knit a small circumference in the round using double-pointed needles (aka dpns)

1. Cast on the required number of stitches onto one DPN. In these drawings, we've used a *long-tail* cast-on, as used in the Geraldine Ribbed Beanie pattern on this page.

2. Distribute the stitches evenly over three DPNs by sliding them purlwise (as if to purl), one at a time, onto needles. Arrange the trio of DPNs as three sides of a square, with the last cast-on stitch in the bottom right-hand corner on DPN 3. Make sure the stitches are not twisted. The fourth needle is ready for action.

3. Bring the tips of DPNs 3 and 1 together to form a triangle. Insert DPN 4 into the first stitch on DPN 1 and knit this stitch. Knit across all stitches on DPN 1. DPN 4 now holds the stitches, and DPN 1 is empty.

4. Now use DPN 1 to knit across the stitches on DPN 2.

5. Continue knitting across each of the three DPNs in turn.

6. After a few rows, your knitting will look like this. It gets easier to work with DPNs when there's more fabric to anchor them, so your hard work will pay off.

magic loop

The Magic Loop technique is done with one very long circular needle (at least 80 cm / 32" in length). To create the smaller circumference, the extra length of the needle's cord is pulled out at two points to make a bunny-ear shape, leaving you with just the length you need for your knitting in the middle.

Pros: We find that long circular needles are more versatile than DPNs. They can be used for knitting flat, in the round, and over small or large circumferences. Using long circulars for Magic Loop also means that you won't ever find yourself struggling to look for that fourth needle as you might with DPNs.

Cons: Some people find having to rearrange their needles every round tedious. We find the process flows quickly once you get the hang of it.

Now you are armed with new techniques to tackle the next project, which is knit in the round. So, round you go!

knitting in the round using magic loop (suitable for both small and large circumferences)

1. Cast on the required number of stitches.

2. Split stitches in half and draw the cord of the circular needle out, creating a loop in the middle of your stitches. Arrange the two halves of stitches with the working yarn on the second half / back needle. Be careful not to twist stitches.

3. Pull the back needle so that its stitches slide onto the cord, and maneuver the needle into position to work with front needle.

4. Knit the first stitch, drawing the working yarn from the back. Pull the yarn snug to avoid leaving a gap.

5. Knit to the end.

6. Turn your work 180 degrees clockwise. Rearrange your needles by first drawing the front needle back and sliding stitches from the cord onto the needle. Then draw out your back needle, allowing the stitches just worked to slide onto the cable.

7. Knit your first stitch as shown. Pay attention to where your working yarn is; make sure it isn’t looped around the cable of the circular needle or under the needle, which will create a gap. Knit all stitches to the end. One round has now been worked.

8. Repeat steps 6–7 to continue knitting in the round.

project 3: **RIBBED BEANIE**

There's nothing like a woolly hat in winter, and we can assure you that there is something extra cozy about a hat you have made yourself. Different types of yarn will give you different effects, as you can see in our two versions here: one using a solid color in wool and the other using a heathered color in an alpaca and cotton blend. Feel free to wear this hat long with the brim unfolded, or fold it up for extra snugness.

bonus info:

Decreasing means reducing the number of stitches you have. In this pattern, you decrease to form the crown of the hat. It's a simple technique and is used in all sorts of places, whenever you want fewer stitches on your needle to make your knitting fit whichever part of the body you are making it for. When you come to the decreases at the top of the hat, you'll notice that we use two different types. *K2tog* (knit two together) is the easiest and most frequently used decrease. It's very simple to achieve and is more or less what it sounds like: You knit two stitches at the same time. K2tog creates a decrease that leans to the right. This is where ssk comes in. *Ssk* (slip, slip, knit) is a left-leaning decrease that mirrors k2tog. Use them together and you get lovely, neat decreases like the ones in this hat. The number of stitches decreased or the total number of stitches left on the needle after a decrease round is identified in italics as a stitch count at the end of the round.

top tip: negative ease

If a finished item has *negative ease*, this means that it is smaller than the area it is intended to fit. This is common in hats, as you often want them to be snug. If you look at the size of head the hat is intended to fit compared with the finished measurements of the hat, you'll notice there's a difference in size. The idea is that the hat should stretch a little over your head so that it stays on. If you aren't sure which size to make, perhaps measure a hat that fits you well and make the size with the closest finished measurements.

notes on construction:

This hat is knit from the brim up to the crown. You will start on a 40 cm / 16" circular needle and change to either DPNs or Magic Loop when the stitches no longer easily fit around the circular needle. You will use two types of decreases to shape the crown. The biggest new challenge this hat presents is keeping your stitch pattern intact as you incorporate your decreases. Never fear, we'll walk you through exactly what you need to do.

techniques you need to know:

- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)
- Joining for working in the round (see this page)
- Small circumference knitting in the round (see this page)
- Knitting in the round on 40 cm / 16" circular needles (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Long-tail cast-on
- Decreasing (k2tog and ssk)
- Working in pattern with decreases
- Threading yarn through stitches

pattern 3GERALDINE ribbed beanie

Sizes: 1 (2, 3)

To fit head circumference up to: 52 (56, 60) cm / 20½ (22, 23½)", to be worn with 21.5–23.5 cm / 8½–9¼" negative ease

Finished circumference (unstretched): 28.5 (33.5, 38) cm / 11¼ (13¼, 15)"

Finished height (with brim unfolded): 28 (30.5, 32) cm / 11 (12, 12½)"

Yarn: The Wandering Flock DK (DK weight; 100% superwash merino wool; 210 m / 230 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Citrine (*yellow*); 1 (1, 1) skein

OR

Pom Pom x Hobbii Garland (worsted weight; 70% cotton,30% alpaca; 105 m / 114 yds per 50-g / 1.75-oz ball)

Shade: Cosmos (*burgundy*); 2 (2, 2) balls

OR approx 141 (170, 199) m / 154 (186, 218) yds of DK weight yarn

Gauge: 34 sts & 31 rows = 10 cm / 4" over 2 × 2 rib pattern on 3.75-mm / US 5 needles, unstretched, after blocking

Needles: 3.75 mm / US 5 circular needle, 40 cm / 16" length

3.75 mm / US 5 DPNs OR 80 cm / 32" length circular needle for working Magic Loop for crown shaping

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 4 stitch markers (1 unique for beginning of round), tapestry needle

PATTERN brim

Using the long-tail method, cast on 96 (112, 128) sts. Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist. PM to indicate beg of round.

Round 1: [K1, p2, k1] to end.

Rep Round 1 (creating 2 × 2 ribbing) until piece measures 19 cm / 7½" from cast-on edge.

crown

note: As you knit the Crown, you will eventually need to change to DPNs or a long circular needle for Magic Loop when you have too few stitches to comfortably work on 40 cm / 16" needles.

Round 1: [Ssk, work in ribbing as established (knitting the knit stitches and purling the purl stitches—see tutorial on this page) for 20 (24, 28) sts, k2tog, PM] 4 times (the final marker will already be there from the beg of round). *88 (104, 120) sts*

Round 2: Work in ribbing as established, knitting the knit stitches and purling the purl stitches as they appear.

Round 3: [Ssk, work in ribbing as established to 2 sts before next marker, k2tog, SM] 4 times. *8 sts dec*

Rep Rounds 2 and 3 until 16 sts rem.

Next round: [K2tog] 8 times. *8 sts*

FINISHING

Cut yarn, leaving a 20.5 cm / 8" tail. Thread the tail onto a tapestry needle, draw it through the rem sts, and pull tight to close. Bring the tail to the inside of the hat and weave it in. Weave in any rem ends and block to measurements.

a. Finished circumference (unstretched):

28.5 (33.5, 38) cm / 11¼ (13¼, 15)"

b. Finished height (with brim unfolded):

28 (30.5, 32) cm / 11 (12, 12½)"

how to do a long-tail cast-on

1. Make a slipknot, leaving a generous tail, and place on a needle. Your tail will need to be at least three times the length of the project's finished measurement to make the required number of stitches. For example, the Geraldine Ribbed Beanie's circumference for size 1 is 28.5 cm / 11¼". So your tail for casting on will need to be three times that length (85.5 cm / 33¾").

2. Arrange the yarn on your left hand, with the long tail over your thumb and the working yarn threaded behind your index finger.

3. Bend your fingers to trap the long tail and working yarn and hold them securely.

4. Scoop the needle from left to right to pick up the tail yarn on the left side of your thumb.

5. Lean the needle to pick up the working yarn looped over your index finger.

6. Draw the working yarn through to create a stitch on the needle.

7. Make sure your new stitch is snug on the needle by gently pulling the yarn tail with your thumb in the direction shown. Make sure not to pull too hard; you don't want your stitches to be too tight.

8. Ensure the tail yarn and working yarn are arranged as detailed in step 2 and repeat steps 3–7 to cast on the required number of stitches.

threading yarn through remaining stitches

1. Cut the yarn, leaving a 30.5 cm / 12" tail, and thread it onto a tapestry needle. Pass the tapestry needle through the first stitch on your needle purlwise and slip it off the knitting needle.

2. Continue for each stitch, inserting the tapestry needle purlwise, drawing the yarn through, and slipping it off the knitting needle.

3. After all your stitches have been secured with the tail, finish by pulling the yarn to gather the stitches together. Secure by weaving in the end on the wrong side.

knit two together (k2tog): right-leaning decrease

1. This method of decreasing uses all the same actions as a standard knit stitch, but the first and second stitches on your left-hand needle are worked together as one.

2. Insert your right-hand needle into these two stitches. First, enter the second stitch from front to back, then enter the first in the same manner, as shown.

3. Wrap or pick the yarn as you would for a knit stitch.

4. Draw the yarn through and drop the two stitches off the left-hand needle.

slip, slip, knit (ssk): left-leaning decrease

1. The arrows indicate the stitches you will work for this decrease.

2. Slip the next two stitches, one after the other, from the left- to right-hand needle knitwise (inserting the needle into each stitch as if to knit but passing the stitch to the right-hand needle without knitting). See this page for our how-to on slipping stitches.

3. Now slip these stitches back onto the left-hand needle, one at a time. They will now be twisted, as shown.

4. Knit through both stitches by inserting your needle through both from front to back as shown. The stitches are twisted, so you are knitting through the back loops. Wrap or pick the yarn as you would for a knit stitch, and draw it through both stitches.

5. Ta-da!

working decreases in 2 × 2 ribbing

These drawings show how your stitches will look as you progress through your decreases while working 2 × 2 ribbing. Notice that the order of stitches in the row below the ones on the needle changes because of the decreases. This is because when the decrease is worked, one stitch is absorbed into the decrease. Take a close look at these drawings and relate them to your work. Once you get the hang of reading your knitting, this will become second nature, but for now keep a close eye on it and be sure to work your knits as knits and purls as purls. And don't forget your markers will remind you not only where to decrease but also where to look closely at the order of your stitches.

1. After completing your first decrease in Round 1 of the crown shaping, you will notice you have only one purl stitch rather than two. This is because one of the purl stitches in that column has been decreased. So, you will now work that one purl as a purl, and then go back to your 2 × 2 rib until you reach your next decrease.

2. After completing your first k2tog decrease, you'll notice you have only one knit stitch to work, then you will go back to 2 × 2 rib until you reach your next decrease.

3. When you come to your decreases in the next round (Crown Round 2, no decreases in this round), you'll notice again that the 2 × 2 rib stitch pattern is interrupted by the decreases. Take a close look at your work and notice that you only need to work one purl stitch before and after each of your decreased stitches.

4. These show further rows of decreases and how they change the pattern. Just keep looking carefully at the stitch in the row below, working knits into knits and purls into purls, and you will be fine.

project 4: CUFFS IN THE ROUND

As you progress, you might discover woolly items you never knew you needed. Cuffs such as these might be one of those items. These are essentially a tube that covers your wrist and palm, plus a hole for your thumb. They leave your fingers free to knit, and you'll be surprised by the difference they can make on a chilly day. You can even layer them with mittens or gloves if you want to. They can save a too-short coat sleeve or protect skin from cold air that sneaks past short gloves and up your sleeves in winter.

notes on construction:

These cuffs are knit from the palm down to the wrist, leaving a gap for your thumb. They are mostly knit in the round, and for those sections, you'll only be working on the right side (RS) of your work. This will make a tube of knitting. To create the thumbhole, you will work a section of the cuffs flat and then rejoin your knitting to work in the round again. This nifty trick is much easier than it sounds.

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Binding off (see this page)
- Joining for working in the round (see this page)
- Small-circumference knitting in the round (see this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Slipping stitches knitwise and purlwise

pattern 4 **JOHN AND JULIET cuffs in the round**

Sizes: 1 (2, 3, 4)

To fit hand circumference: 18 (19, 21, 23) cm / 7 (7½, 8½, 9½)", to be worn with 0–1.25 cm / 0–½" negative ease

Finished hand circumference: 18 (19.5, 21, 23) cm / 7 (7¾, 8¼, 9)"

Yarn: John Arbon Textiles Knit by Numbers DK (DK weight; 50% merino wool, 50% Bluefaced Leicester wool; 233 m / 255 yds per 100-g / 3½-oz skein)

Shade: KBN131 (*pink*); 1 (1, 1, 1) skein

OR KBN0112 (*gold*); 1 (1, 1, 1) skein

OR approx 105 (116, 127, 138) m / 115 (127, 139, 151) yds of DK weight yarn

Gauge: 22 sts & 29 rows = 10 cm / 4" over stockinette stitch worked in the round on 4.5-mm / US 7 needles after blocking

Needles: 4.5 mm / US 7 DPNs OR 80 cm / 32" length circular needle for working Magic Loop

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: Stitch marker, tapestry needle

PATTERNhand (make 2 alike)

Using the long-tail method, cast on 38 (42, 46, 50) sts.

Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist. PM to indicate beg of round.

Work St st in the round (knit every round), until Hand measures 5 cm / 2" from cast-on edge.

thumbhole

You will now change from working in the round to working back and forth in rows to create a thumb-hole. Work the stitches as they are—no need for you to rearrange them across the needles, but you will need to remove the stitch marker for now.

Row 1 (WS): Turn your work so the purl side is facing you, sl1 pwise with yarn held in front (i.e., closest to you), p to end.

Row 2 (RS): Turn work so the knit side is facing you, sl1 kwise with yarn in back (i.e., at the back of your work), k to end.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 a further 5 (5, 6, 6) times, or until the flat Thumbhole section measures 4.5 (4.5, 5, 5) cm / 1¾ (1¾, 2, 2)", ending with Row 2.

wrist

You will return to working in the round again, with the knit side of the fabric facing you, as follows:

Next Round (RS): Join to work in the round once again, replacing the stitch marker for the beg of the round, and k to end.

Continue to knit every round until cuff measures 23 cm / 9" (or desired length) from cast-on edge.

Bind off.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Finished circumference: 18 (19.5, 21, 23) cm / 7 (7¾, 8¼, 9)"
b. Finished length: 23 cm / 9"

slipping stitches knitwise (with yarn in back)

1. Insert your right-hand needle into the stitch you want to slip as if to knit, as shown.

2. Pass the stitch from your left-hand to right-hand needle so that it's now sitting on the right-hand needle as shown, but you haven't worked it by pulling the working yarn through. You will notice that the stitch is now sitting over the needle differently—it is twisted, which means the left leg of the stitch is in front and the right leg is behind. In this scenario the twist is intended, but sometimes you may end up with twisted stitches by mistake, in which case see this page for our how-to on fixing them.

3. The working yarn will pass behind the slipped stitch before continuing to work with the subsequent stitches.

slipping stitches purlwise (with yarn in back)

1. Insert your right-hand needle into the stitch you want to slip as if to purl, as shown.

2. Pass the stitch from your left-hand to right-hand needle so that it’s now sitting on the right-hand needle as shown, but you haven’t worked it by pulling the working yarn through.

3. You can now continue working the next stitches as instructed. The working yarn will pass behind the slipped stitch before continuing to work with the subsequent stitches.

project 5: **THREE SIMPLE BANDANAS**

Shapes can be created in different ways in knitting. In the Geraldine Ribbed Beanie (see this page), we created the tapered shape for the top of the hat using decreases. In these bandana patterns, we're going to show you how to make your knitting *wider* using increases. At the ends of every other row, we'll be adding a stitch using a technique called a *yarn over* (yo), which is the simplest way to increase a stitch. By adding a yarn over at the beginning and end of every other row, a triangle shape is made. It's satisfyingly easy to do, so we'll also be introducing stripes or a fancy edging to try if you like. One of the great things about a bandana like this is that your gauge doesn't matter very much. As long as you like the way the fabric is working up, you're good to go.

notes on construction:

The bandanas start with just three stitches cast on, and then stitches are increased with yarn overs every other row, until the desired width and depth are reached.

techniques you need to know:

- The knitted cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Binding off (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Yarn overs
- Joining a new yarn color
- How to carry yarn up the side of your work
- Backward loop cast-on

top tip: make your bandana any size you want

As we mentioned, getting the right gauge isn't crucial for these patterns. If you're happy with how the fabric feels after a few inches of knitting, then no need to change anything, even if you're not getting the tension suggested in the pattern. You can even make these using thinner or thicker yarns. Just adjust your needle size accordingly (smaller needle for thinner yarns, bigger needle for thicker yarns). You are also welcome to make the bandana smaller by stopping knitting when you feel it's big enough, or bigger by just continuing to add rows—maybe until you have just enough yarn to bind off. If you know in advance that you would like to make your bandana larger, keep in mind you may need to buy more yarn.

top tip: stitch markers and yarn overs

These patterns require you to place stitch markers next to yarn overs. Sometimes this can present a little problem—the yarn over can tend to want to wiggle its way over or under the marker, causing confusion about what you need to do in your pattern. To avoid this, we recommend making sure you use stitch markers with a little heft, meaning they are on the thicker side, as opposed to a thin ring or bulb shape. Silicone rings are also a good choice, as they are a little bit "sticky" and don't tend to slip around. If you reach the point where your marker is and something's not adding up, you may want to check if your yarn over has moved to the wrong side of the marker. Ensuring your yarn overs aren't too loose will also help make sure you stay on track.

Candice bandana

Adrienne bandana

Kristine bandana

pattern 5.1 CANDICE bandana

One size: 82.5 cm / 32½" wide x 35 cm / 13¾" deep

Yarn: The Farmer's Daughter Fibers x Spincycle Yarns Spinster's Daughter Worsted (worsted weight; 100% superwash American wool; 183 m / 200 yds per approx 113-g / 4-oz skein)

Shade: Old Man Coyote; 2 skeins

OR approx 202 m / 221 yds of worsted weight yarn

note: Sample shown used one entire skein with almost no yarn left over; two skeins are recommended to allow a buffer for swatching and minor gauge variation.

Gauge: 15 sts & 34 rows = 10 cm / 4" over garter stitch on 5-mm / US 8 needles after blocking

Needles: 5 mm / US 8 circular needle, of at least 60 cm / 24" length (for working a large number of stitches flat)

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 2 stitch markers, locking stitch marker or safety pin, tapestry needle

PATTERN

Using the knitted cast-on method, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Knit.

Row 2 (RS): K1, PM, yo, k1, yo, PM, k1. *5 sts*

Attach a locking stitch marker or safety pin to this side of your work to help keep track of which side is the RS. You can move this marker up as needed as your work grows.

Row 3: Knit, slipping markers as you come to them.

Row 4: K1, SM, yo, k to marker, yo, SM, k1. *2 sts inc*

Rep Rows 3 and 4 until piece measures 35 cm / 13¾" from cast-on, or until desired depth and width.

Bind off all sts loosely, removing markers as you come to them.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Width: 82.5 cm / 32½"
b. Depth: 35 cm / 13¾"

pattern 5.2 **ADRIENNE striped bandana**

One size: 82.5 cm / 32½" wide x 35 cm / 13¾" deep

Yarn: Bread & Butter Yarn Co. Everyday (worsted weight; 100% merino wool; 183 m / 200 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Yarn A: Ballpoint (*blue*); 1 skein

Yarn B: Jade Cove (*pale green*); 1 skein

OR approx:

Yarn A: 102 m / 112 yds of worsted weight yarn

Yarn B: 102 m / 112 yds of worsted weight yarn

Gauge: 15 sts & 34 rows = 10 cm / 4" over garter stitch on 5-mm / US 8 needles after blocking

Needles: 5 mm / US 8 circular needle, of at least 60 cm / 24" length (for working a large number of stitches flat)

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 2 stitch markers, locking stitch marker or safety pin, tapestry needle

PATTERN

note: see this page for tutorial on joining a new yarn for stripes.

Using the knitted cast-on method and Yarn A, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Knit.

Row 2 (RS): With Yarn B, k1, PM, yo, k1, yo, PM, k1. *5 sts*

Attach a locking stitch marker or safety pin to this side of your work to help keep track of which side is the RS. You can move this marker up as needed as your work grows.

Row 3: Knit, slipping markers as you come to them.

Row 4: With Yarn A, k1, SM, yo, k to marker, yo, SM, k1. *2 sts inc*

Row 5: Knit, slipping markers as you come to them.

Row 6: With Yarn B, k1, SM, yo, k to marker, yo, SM, k1. *2 sts inc*

Row 7: Knit, slipping markers as you come to them.

Rep Rows 4–7 until piece measures 35 cm / 13¾" from cast-on, or until desired depth and width.

Bind off all sts loosely, removing markers as you come to them.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Width: 82.5 cm / 32½"
b. Depth: 35 cm / 13¾"

pattern 5.3 **KRISTINE adventurous bandana with edging**

One size: 78 cm / 30¾" wide x 34.5 cm / 13½" deep (excluding edging)

Yarn: Bread & Butter Yarn Co. Everyday (worsted weight; 100% merino wool; 183 m / 200 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Ballpoint; 1 skein

OR approx 178 m / 195 yds of worsted weight yarn

Gauge: 15 sts & 34 rows = 10 cm / 4" over garter stitch on 5-mm / US 8 needles after blocking

Needles: 5 mm / US 8 circular needle, of at least 60 cm / 24" length (for working a large number of stitches flat)

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 2 stitch markers, locking stitch marker or safety pin, tapestry needle

PATTERN

Using the knitted cast-on method, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Knit.

Row 2 (RS): K1, PM, yo, k1, yo, PM, k1. *5 sts* (see this page)

Attach a locking stitch marker or safety pin to this side of your work to help keep track of which side is the RS. You can move this marker up as needed as your work grows.

Row 3: Slipping markers as you come to them, k to end, using backward loop cast-on, cast on 3 sts. *3 sts inc*

Row 4: K4, SM, yo, k to marker, yo, SM, k1, using backward loop cast-on, cast on 3 sts. *5 sts inc*

Row 5: K4, SM, k to marker, SM, k4. (see this page)

Row 6: K4, SM, yo, k to marker, yo, SM, k4. *2 sts inc*

Row 7: K4, SM, k to marker, SM, k4.

Row 8: Bind off 3 sts (1 st rem before marker), SM, yo, k to marker, yo, SM, k4. *1 st dec*

Row 9: Bind off 3 sts (1 st rem before marker), SM, k to marker, SM, k1. *3 sts dec* (see this page)

Row 10: K1, SM, yo, k to marker, yo, SM, k1. *2 sts inc*

Rep Rows 3–10 a further 12 times, then rep Rows 3–9 only once more. *115 sts*

Bind off all sts loosely, removing markers as you come to them.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Width: 78 cm / 30¾" (excluding edging)
b. Depth: 34.5 cm / 13½" (excluding edging)

yarn over

1. Move the yarn to the front between your needles as if to purl, and then to the back over your right-hand needle as shown.

2. This strand should stay over the needle as you continue to work the following stitches. Your yarn over is essentially a brand-new stitch. Note that the yarn sits with the left leg behind and the right leg in front of the needle as with your other stitches.

3. When you reach your yarn over on the next row, work it as if it's a stitch. (Shown here is the wrong side of stockinette stitch.)

4. The finished yarn over leaves a cute little hole in your work, like a knitted polka dot.

how to work two-row stripes

This tutorial shows how to carry yarn up the side of your work if you are working stripes flat. This works if each stripe is two rows, as they are in the Adrienne Bandana. If you are working more than two rows, you will need to cut the yarn between color changes.

1. After working two rows with color A, you are all set to join in color B.

2. Drop color A, but do not break it off. Join color B (see tutorial on this page).

3. Work two rows in color B as instructed in your pattern.

4. Drop color B (do not break off) and pick up color A again, passing it over and in front of color B as shown.

5. Knit with color A.

6. This is how your work should look with the yarn carried up the side. The yarn that is carried up the side is often called a *float*. Make sure not to pull the float too tight or leave it too loose.

7. When it comes time to pick up color B again, do so in the same way that you did in step 4, passing it in front of color A before knitting with it. If you continue in this manner, the yarns will be neatly interlocked along the edge, which will further secure them.

backward loop cast-on

1. Loop your working yarn around your thumb and grasp it as shown. Your right-hand needle goes under the yarn closest to you, in the direction shown by the arrow.

2. Your yarn will now be looped over the needle, as shown.

3. Drop the yarn from your thumb so that it's now sitting on your needle, as shown. You can tighten your stitch by pulling the yarn in the direction indicated by the arrow.

4. Your new stitch should be snug on the needle, but not too tight.

5. Repeat steps 1–3 until you have created the required number of new stitches.

kristine bandana edging guide

If you're making Kristine, our more adventurous bandana, you can use these illustrations as a guide to navigate the edging. They aren't step-by-step, but they do show three key stages in the pattern where having a visual reference is helpful.

1. This shows how your needle will look after Row 2; markers have been placed and you are ready to begin your edging.

2. This is how your work will look once you have cast on stitches for the edging (Rows 4 and 5) using the backward loop cast-on (see this page for tutorial). The new stitches sit at the end of the row, and you will now have four stitches in total for the edging.

3. This is how your work will look once you have bound off stitches for the edging (Rows 8 and 9). (See this page for the bind-off tutorial.) You will once again have one stitch for the edging.

project 6: **CABLED SCARVES**

Many knitters get nervous about cables at first. They are pretty impressive looking and do appear to have been created with a special sprinkling of magic. In fact, they are fairly straightforward, and although they can appear complicated, they are exactly what they look like: sets of stitches swapping places to create a braid-like effect. To aid us in crossing stitches over each other, we use a cable needle. This is a short needle, often with a dip in the middle, that holds stitches either in front of or behind your work while they wait to be knitted. These scarves are the perfect way to get to grips with cables, and we think they're pretty versatile too. Embellish with pom poms, as shown in the purple version here, or leave them off for a sleeker look.

notes on construction:

The scarves are knit flat from short end to short end. We have two versions for you: a simpler version (Fiona, shown on this page), and a more adventurous version (Alice, shown on this page). Alice has decorative slipped stitches and a slightly more complicated edging (seed stitch) than Fiona, which has a simpler garter stitch edging and no slipped stitches. You can decide which feels right for you. Or make one and then the other . . . there is no such thing as too many beautiful scarves!

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Binding off (see this page)
- Slipping stitches purlwise (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Cables
- Reading from charts
- How to make pom poms (optional)

bonus info:

Cables normally cross to the left or to the right and are identified as either "L" or

“R” alongside the number of stitches used. When you create a left-crossing cable, you hold stitches in front of your work, and when the cable has to cross right, you hold stitches behind.

top tip: written instructions vs. charts

Not all patterns are written out in the way you have encountered so far. If a pattern can be divided into sections of repeating rows, each part will often be presented in a chart of stitches.

A chart is a visual representation of the stitches, presented as a sort of table. Each stitch used is given a symbol, and you work a stitch when you see its symbol in the chart. The symbols become second nature very quickly. Charts can be much easier to work from than written instructions once you get used to them, especially with cables. When you use a chart, you can get a rough idea of what your knitting should look like as you work through it. This means you can tell more easily if your stitches aren’t lining up in the way they should.

If you want to use the chart that's on this page for this pattern, go ahead. If it doesn’t feel natural yet, stick with the written instructions. There’s no right or wrong here, just whatever is most comfortable and productive for you. You will find charts again in Project 8 (see this page).

pattern 6.1 **FIONAsimple cabled scarf**

One size: 21 cm / 8¼" wide x 189 cm / 74½" long

Yarn: Berroco Ultra Wool Chunky (bulky weight; 100% superwash wool; 133 m / 145 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz ball)

Shade: Iris; 4 skeins

OR approx 458 m / 501 yds of bulky weight yarn

Gauge: 13 sts & 18 rows = 10 cm / 4" over garter stitch on 8-mm / US 11 needles after blocking

Needles: 8 mm / US 11 knitting needles

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: Large cable needle, tapestry needle, pom pom maker (optional)

stitch glossary(special abbreviations you will need for this pattern)

cables

3/3 RC: Sl3 to cable needle and hold at back of work, k3, then k3 from cable needle.

3/3 LC: Sl3 to cable needle and hold at front of work, k3, then k3 from cable needle.

written instructions for cable pattern

Row 1 (RS): K5, p2, k6, p2, k2, sl1, k2, p2, k6, p2, k5.

Row 2 (WS & all following WS rows): K7, p6, k4, p1, k4, p6, k7.

Row 3: Rep Row 1.

Row 5: Rep Row 1.

Row 7 (RS): K5, p2, 3/3 RC, p2, k2, sl1, k2, p2, 3/3 LC, p2, k5.

Row 8 (WS): Rep Row 2.

PATTERN

Using the long-tail method, cast on 35 sts.

bottom border

Knit 6 rows in garter st (knit every row).

cable pattern

Starting with a RS Row 1, commence Cable Pattern, reading from the Chart (see this page) or following Written Instructions (see above).

note: Slip stitches should be slipped purlwise, with yarn held at back of work (pwise wyib).

Rep Rows 1–8 of cable pattern until scarf measures approx 186 cm / 73¼" from cast-on edge (completing 40 full reps of Rows 1–8 in total), ending after Row 8.

Work Rows 1–4 only once more.

top border

Knit 6 rows in garter st.

Bind off all sts.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

Divide the rem yarn into four equal parts, make four pom poms, and securely sew one to each corner.

a. Width: 21 cm / 8¼"
b. Length: 189 cm / 75½"

chart for cable pattern

Key

chart

The section between these dotted lines on this image shows one full repeat of the chart.

top tip: reading from charts

Charts are written so that the symbols illustrate how the knitting looks from the right side. Charts come with a key that shows the stitch that each symbol relates to. As the symbols only show the stitches from the right side, the key also explains which stitch the symbol relates to when worked from the wrong side—e.g., “knit on RS, purl on WS.” When reading charts, you read the symbols from right to left for right-side rows, in the same way that you knit a row from right to left. However, for wrong-side rows, you read the symbols from left to right, as indicated by the arrows.

When working charts in the round, all rows are read from right to left, as all the rows you work are right-side rows.

pattern 6.2 ALICE adventurous cabled scarf

One size: 18.5 cm / 7¼" wide x 129.5 cm / 51" long

Yarn: Berroco Ultra Wool Chunky (bulky weight; 100% superwash wool; 133 m / 145 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz ball)

Shade: Sunflower; 3 skeins

OR approx 337 m / 369 yds of bulky weight yarn

Gauge: 19 sts & 26 rows = 10 cm / 4" over Cable Pattern on 8-mm / US 11 needles after blocking

Needles: 8 mm / US 11 knitting needles

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: Large cable needle, tapestry needle

stitch glossary(special abbreviations you will need for this pattern)

cables

3/3 RC: Sl3 to cable needle and hold at back of work, k3, then k3 from cable needle.

3/3 LC: Sl3 to cable needle and hold at front of work, k3, then k3 from cable needle.

written instructions for cable pattern

Row 1 (RS): K1, [p1, sl1] twice, p2, k6, p2, [sl1, p1] twice, sl1, p2, k6, p2, [sl1, p1] twice, k1.

Row 2 (WS): [P1, k1] twice, p1, k2, p6, k2, [p1, k1] twice, p1, k2, p6, k2, [p1, k1] twice, p1.

Rows 3–6: Rep Rows 1–2.

Row 7: K1, [p1, sl1] twice, p2, 3/3 RC, p2, [sl1, p1] twice, sl1, p2, 3/3 LC, p2, [sl1, p1] twice, k1.

Row 8 (WS): Rep Row 2.

PATTERN

Using the long-tail method, cast on 35 sts.

bottom border

Row 1: [K1, p1] to last st, k1.

Row 1 sets seed stitch.

Rep Row 1 seven more times for seed stitch.

cable pattern

Starting with a RS Row 1, commence Cable Pattern, reading from the Chart (see this page) or following Written Instructions on this page.

note: Slip stitches should be slipped purlwise, with yarn held at back of work (pwise wyib).

Rep Rows 1–8 of cable pattern until scarf measures approx 126.5 cm / 49¾" from cast-on edge (completing 39 full reps of Rows 1–8 in total), ending after Row 8.

Work Rows 1–4 only once more.

top border

Work 8 rows in seed stitch.

Bind off in seed stitch.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Width: 18.5 cm / 7¼"
b. Length: 129.5 cm / 51"

chart for cable pattern

key

chart

The section between these dotted lines on this image shows one full repeat of the chart.

left-crossing cable (stitches held in front)

1. Stitches shown in fuchsia will be crossed in front. Stitches shown in pale pink will be crossed behind.

2. Slide the first three stitches purlwise, one at a time, off your left-hand needle and onto the cable needle. Arrange the cable needle to sit at the front of your work and leave it there for now.

3. Knit the next three stitches on your left-hand needle.

4. Using the cable needle as if it were your left-hand needle, knit the three stitches held on the cable needle onto your right-hand needle.

5. Your cable is complete.

right-crossing cable (stitches held behind)

1. Stitches shown in teal will be crossed behind. Stitches shown in olive will be crossed in front.

2. Slide the first three stitches purlwise, one at a time, off your left-hand needle and onto the cable needle. Arrange the cable needle to sit at the back of your work and leave it there for now.

3. Knit the next three stitches on your left-hand needle.

4. Using the cable needle as if it were your left-hand needle, knit the three stitches held on the cable needle onto your right-hand needle.

5. Your cable is complete.

how to make a pom pom

1. Cut two donut shapes from cardboard. The diameter of these determines the size of your pom poms. The hole in the center will need to be big enough to pass yarn through easily.

2. Hold the two circles together and wrap yarn around both the circles. Tip: You can cut a slit through both circles to make this easier.

3. Wrap the yarn until you cannot fit any more yarn through the hole.

4. Snip the entire perimeter of the donut, holding the scissor blade between the cardboard circles.

5. Carefully separate the two cardboard circles and knot a strand of yarn tightly around the yarn between them. Remove the cardboard circles.

6. Fluff the strands of yarn to make the pom pom; give it a haircut to shape it nicely and snip any stray strands, but be careful not to snip the long strands from the piece of yarn you used to tie the middle of the pom pom. Use the long strands to attach your pom pom to your scarf.

project 7: MITTENS IN THE ROUND

Fancy treating yourself to snuggly hands? These mittens are great fun, unisex, and the contrast cuff is an excellent way to use up leftover yarn. You'll praise these cute mitts on icy days when fingerless gloves aren't enough. The trickiest part of this project is the thumb, but not only will you make these thumbs, you'll be giving everyone the thumbs-up to show them off. To make the thumb, you will be increasing (adding stitches) and then setting those stitches aside while you finish the hand. The fun thing about doing the thumb last is that, although it may be fiddly, it's very quick once you get going because there are so few stitches.

top tip: increasing

Increasing means adding extra stitches. In this case, you increase to create space for your thumb. The increased thumb stitches are known as a gusset. As with decreases, there are several types of increases. This pattern uses two types: a left-leaning one called *Make 1 Left* (abbreviated to M1L), and a right-leaning one called *Make 1 Right* (M1R). As with decreasing, the total number of stitches you should have on your needle after an increase round is identified in italics as a stitch count at the end of the instructions for that round. If the increase round is going to be repeated, then the number of stitches increased is noted instead.

notes on construction:

Knit in the round using either Magic Loop or DPNs, whichever you find easier. These mittens start at the cuff and finish at the fingertips. The thumb is completed last.

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Joining for working in the round (see this page)
- Small-circumference knitting in the round (see this page–this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)
- K2tog (see this page)
- Reading garter ridges (see this page)

- Threading yarn through remaining stitches (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Increasing (M1L and M1R)
- Garter stitch in the round
- Picking up stitches
- Putting stitches on hold (using waste yarn)

working garter stitch in the round:

Making garter stitch in the round can be a little confusing at first. Garter knit flat requires only one type of stitch: either all purl rows or all knit rows. In the round, however, you need to work alternating knit and purl rounds to create the same effect. If you think about the fact that you always work on the right side (RS) of the fabric when you knit in the round, this might start to make more sense.

pattern 6 **ROSAmittens in the round**

Sizes: 1 (2, 3)

To fit hand circumference: 18 (20, 23) cm / 7 (8, 9)", to be worn with 1–1.5 cm / ¼"–¾" negative ease

Finished circumference: 16.5 (18.5, 22) cm / 6½ (7¼, 8¾)"

Length: Adjust to fit

Yarn: Retrosaria Rosa Pomar Beiroa (worsted weight; 100% Portuguese wool; 230 m / 251 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz ball)

Shades:

Yarn A: 478 Taipa (*rust*); 1 (1, 1) ball

Yarn B: 734 Lilàs (*lilac*); 1 (1, 1) ball

OR approx:

Yarn A: 40 (45, 55) m / 44 (49, 60) yds of worsted weight yarn

Yarn B: 96 (114, 146) m / 105 (125, 160) yds of worsted weight yarn

Gauge: 20 sts & 26 rows = 10 cm / 4" over stockinette stitch worked in the round on 4-mm / US 5 needles, after blocking

Needles: 3.75 mm / US 5 DPNs OR circular needle, minimum 80 cm / 32" length for working Magic Loop

4 mm / US 6 DPNs OR circular needle, minimum 80 cm / 32" length for working Magic Loop

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 4 stitch markers (1 unique for beginning of round), waste yarn, tapestry needle

notes: Where only one number is given, it applies to all sizes.

PATTERN cuff

Using smaller-size needles, Yarn A, and the long-tail method, cast on 32 (36, 44) sts. Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist. PM to indicate beg of round.

Round 1: Purl.

Round 2: Knit.

Rep Rounds 1 and 2 a further 10 times (11 garter ridges in total).

Break Yarn A, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail to weave in later.

hand

Change to larger-size needles and continue in Yarn B only as follows:

Work 5 rounds in St st (knit every round).

commence thumb gusset

note: The setup for the thumb gusset is different for the Right and Left Mittens. Ensure you work one of each—it's very easy to forget.

left mitten ONLY

Setup round: K to last 2 sts of round, PM, M1L, PM, k2. *33 (37, 45) sts*

right mitten ONLY

Setup round: K2, PM, M1L, PM, k to end of round. *33 (37, 45) sts*

BOTH mittens again

Round 1: K all sts, slipping the markers as you come to them.

Round 2: K to marker, SM, M1R, k1, M1L, SM, k to end. *35 (39, 47) sts*

Rounds 3–4: K all sts, slipping markers as you come to them.

Round 5: K to marker, SM, M1R, k to marker, M1L, SM, k to end. *2 sts inc*

Rep Rounds 3–5 a further 3 (4, 5) times until there are 11 (13, 15) sts between the markers. *43 (49, 59) sts in total on the needles; 11 (13, 15) gusset sts*

Knit 1 round, slipping markers as you come to them.

left mitten ONLY

Next round: K to marker, remove marker, place next 11 (13, 15) sts (Thumb stitches) onto waste yarn (see this page), remove marker, k to end. *32 (36, 44) sts*

right mitten ONLY

Next round: K2, remove marker, place next 11 (13, 15) sts (Thumb stitches) onto waste yarn (see this page), remove marker, k to end. *32 (36, 44) sts*

BOTH mittens again

Work in St st until piece measures 16 (18, 19.5) cm / 6¼ (7, 7¾)" from cast-on edge, or 5 (5.5, 7.5) cm / 2 (2¼, 3)" less than desired length.

shape mitten top

Setup round: [K8 (9, 11), PM] 3 times, k to end. *4 markers placed—beg of round marker plus 3 new markers.*

note: Use the contrast marker to indicate beg of round.

Dec round: [K to 2 sts before marker, k2tog]
4 times. *4 sts dec*

Next round: Knit.

Rep last 2 rounds until 16 sts rem.

Rep Dec round only until 8 sts rem.

Cut yarn, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail. Thread the tail onto a tapestry needle, draw it through the rem sts, and pull tight to close, taking the tail through to the inside.

thumb

Setup round: Place 11 (13, 15) held thumb gusset sts on larger-size needle. Rejoin Yarn B, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail, and k across these sts, then pick up and k3 sts in gap. Join for working in the round and PM to indicate beg of round. *14 (16, 18) sts*

Work 13 (16, 19) rounds in St st or until Thumb measures 1.5 cm / ½" less than desired length.

thumb decreases

Round 1: [K2, k2tog] 3 (4, 4) times, k2 (0, 2). *11 (12, 14) sts*

Round 2: [K1, k2tog] 3 (4, 4) times, k2 (0, 2). *8 (8, 10) sts*

Round 3: [K1, k2tog] 2 (2, 3) times, k2 (2, 1). *6 (6, 7) sts*

Cut yarn, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail. Thread the tail onto a tapestry needle, thread it through the rem sts, and pull tight to close, taking the tail through to the inside.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and use the long tail at the Thumb to close any gaps. Block to measurements.

a. Finished circumference: 16.5 (18.5, 22) cm / 6½ (7¼, 8¾)"

make 1 left (M1L)

1. Identify the strand between the last stitch on the right-hand needle and the first stitch on the left-hand needle.

2. Using your right-hand needle, pick up the strand from front to back. This strand becomes the new stitch.

3. Place this stitch on your left-hand needle as shown. The left leg of the stitch should sit behind the needle, and the right leg should sit in front as with your other stitches.

4. Knit through the back loop as shown. To do this, insert your needle from behind so that the legs of the stitches cross over each other.

5. One stitch increased.

make 1 right (M1R)

1. Identify the strand between the last stitch on the right-hand needle and the first stitch on the left-hand needle.

2. Using your right-hand needle, pick up the strand from front to back. This strand will become the new stitch.

3. Place the stitch on your left-hand needle as shown. The left leg of the stitch should sit in front of the needle, and the right leg should sit in back.

4. Knit the stitch.

5. One stitch increased.

picking up thumb stitches

1. Split your stitches evenly over your needles. You will be following the arrow and picking up stitches where indicated. Insert your right-hand needle into the center of the next stitch from front to back.

2. Wrap your working yarn around the needle.

3. Pull the yarn back through the center of the stitch. You have now picked up one stitch.

4. Repeat steps 1–3 until you have picked up the correct number of stitches.

putting stitches on hold (using a stitch holder)

1. With your stitch holder in your right hand, insert it into the first stitch on the left-hand needle purlwise. Slip this stitch off the needle and onto the holder.

2. Repeat for each stitch, transferring them from your left-hand needle onto the stitch holder.

3. Close the stitch holder to keep your stitches safe.

putting stitches on hold (using waste yarn)

1. Thread your tapestry needle with waste yarn (a smooth yarn is best for this as it is much easier to get your stitches back on your needles later). Insert your needle into the first stitch on the left-hand needle purlwise.

2. Slip this stitch off the left-hand needle and pass it onto your tapestry needle, allowing it to slide down onto the waste yarn. Repeat until you have slipped all the required stitches onto your waste yarn.

project 8: **FIRST SWEATERS**

Sometimes we like our sweaters boxy and a little roomy, and sometimes not so much. This sweater can be either depending on the size you choose to make, and it suits most shapes. There is something very satisfying about a simple sweater; you can throw it on with almost anything, and we can guarantee that this one is a real compliment-grabber. There are two versions for you to choose from. One is in stockinette stitch and ribbing, with some punchy color blocking (Chris, shown in rust and pink). You can make this version in one color if you want to . . . or add more colors if that's how you roll. If you are feeling slightly more adventurous, then you can try the version featuring a nice, easy bit of waffle texture over the yoke (the part of the sweater that covers the upper chest and shoulders), which is the olive sweater we named James. And, as always, we encourage you to experiment if that's something that appeals. Why not have just your cuffs and neckband in a contrast color? Or you could make your sleeves a different color from the body, and your cuffs another shade entirely. Endless possibilities.

a note on pattern instructions:

You will see the phrase "at the same time" used in this pattern. It really does just mean that you need to keep two instructions in mind at one time. It will make more sense once you get to that point in the pattern. If you need extra guidance, we've included more information on this page in the Frankie Cardigan pattern, where these instructions are more complex.

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Knitting in the round (see this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)
- Small-circumference knitting in the round (see this page)
- Decreasing (k2tog and ssk, see this page and this page)
- Increasing (M1L and M1R, see this page and this page)
- Putting stitches on hold (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Picking up stitches
- Three-needle bind-off
- Decreasing (p2tog)

top tip: picking up stitches

Picking up stitches is another very handy technique that is used in a myriad of ways, including working on a thumb, like we did in the Rosa mittens. It also creates a satisfyingly neat join with no need for seams. For this sweater, you will pick up stitches for your sleeves and again to finish off your neckband. These are larger numbers of stitches to pick up in one go than for your mitten thumbs, so we recommend placing locking stitch markers at even intervals along the area you are picking up. This helps you to divide and space your picked-up stitches evenly. For example, if you have to pick up forty stitches, you could place three markers to split the area into four equal sections (to make sure you pick up ten stitches per section), and you're all done.

bonus info: positive and negative ease

This sweater is intended to be boxy and loose fitting. This means the final measurements incorporate a lot of positive ease, meaning extra space. If you compare the measurement of the chest size that each sweater size is intended to fit with the garment's finished measurements, you'll see there's a difference between them. If you would like a more fitted look, make a smaller size. Maybe measure a favorite comfy sweater and make the size that has the closest finished measurements. Don't forget your gauge swatch!

pattern 8.1 **CHRIS sweater**

pattern 8.2 **JAMES waffle sweater**

Sizes: 1 (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Finished chest circumference: 97 (106, 115, 126.5, 138, 146.5, 155.5, 165, 178.5) cm / 38 (41¾, 45¼, 49½, 54¼, 57¾, 61¼, 65, 70¼)", to be worn with up to 25 cm / 10" positive ease

The model wearing Chris has an 86.5 cm / 34" chest, stands 170 cm / 5'7" tall, and is wearing a size 2.

The model wearing James has a 112 cm / 44" chest, stands 167.5 cm / 5'6" tall, and is wearing a size 4.

Yarn:

CHRIS (Color-Block Version)

De Rerum Natura Gilliatt (worsted weight; 100% merino wool; 247 m / 270 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz ball)

Shades:

Yarn A: Fauve (*rust*); 3 (3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6) balls

Yarn B: Argile (*pink*); 2 (2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3) balls

OR approx:

Yarn A: 708 (735, 830, 902, 983, 1096, 1213, 1360, 1468) m / 775 (804, 908, 987, 1075, 1199, 1327, 1488, 1606) yds of worsted weight yarn

Yarn B: 302 (341, 379, 427, 504, 537, 595, 678, 759) m / 331 (373, 415, 467, 551, 588, 651, 742, 830) yds of worsted weight yarn

JAMES (Waffle Stitch Version)

Kelbourne Woolens Germantown (worsted weight; 100% North American wool; 201 m / 220 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Olive; 5 (5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9) skeins

OR approx 1010 (1076, 1208, 1329, 1487, 1633, 1808, 2038, 2227) m / 1105 (1177, 1321, 1454, 1626, 1786, 1977, 2229, 2436) yds of worsted weight yarn

Gauge: 18 sts & 24 rows = 10 cm / 4" over stockinette stitch worked in the round on 4.5-mm / US 7 needles after blocking

Needles: 4 mm / US 6 and 4.5 mm / US 7 circular needle, 80 cm / 32" length

4 mm / US 6 and 4.5 mm / US 7 DPNs OR minimum 100 cm / 40" circular needle for Magic Loop, for working the Sleeves, Neckline, and three-needle bind-off. If preferred, the Neckline may be worked with a 40 cm / 16" length circular needle instead.

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 2 stitch markers in different colors, waste yarn or stitch holder, tapestry needle

notes: Two versions of this sweater are given: Chris, shown in two colors with a contrast color yoke, and James, in a single shade with a textured yoke. The body of the sweater is worked identically for both versions to the yoke. The sweaters are worked from the bottom up, meaning you start with the ribbing at the bottom of the body and then work upward toward the shoulders. You will work this entire lower section in the round, and then you'll change to working back and forth in rows over the two halves of the stitches for the front and back. These will then be joined at the tops of the shoulders, leaving an opening for the arms and neck. Next, you will pick up stitches for the sleeves, which are then worked downward in the round. Take care to follow the correct yoke instructions for your preferred version when indicated. Sleeves are worked identically for both versions.

stitch glossary

2 × 2 rib in the round

Round 1: [K2, p2] to end.

Rep Round 1 for pattern.

PATTERN lower rib band

Using the larger-size 80 cm / 32" circular needle, Yarn A if working **Color-Block Version**, and the long-tail method, cast on 172 (188, 204, 224, 244, 260, 276, 292, 316) sts. Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist. PM to indicate beg of round.

Next round: [K2, p2] to end.

Work 2 × 2 rib as set for 5 cm / 2".

Optional next round (as shown on Color-Block Version): Purl.

main body

Work St st in the round (knit every round) until piece measures 30.5 (30.5, 33, 33, 33, 35.5, 38, 40.5, 40.5) cm / 12 (12, 13, 13, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16)" from cast-on edge, or until Body measures 2.5 cm / 1" less than desired finished length from underarm. If you want a longer sweater, you can work extra here, and if you want a cropped sweater, work less.

Now you need to follow instructions based on whether you would like to work the **Color-Block** yoke (seen in Chris, the rust and pink version), which begins below, or the Waffle Stitch yoke (as in James, the olive sample), which begins on this page. You can of course work the Waffle Stitch in a different color if you are feeling adventurous, or just make a plain sweater all in one color without the stitch pattern. You are the master of your sweater destiny.

COLOR-BLOCK VERSION ONLY

Cut Yarn A, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail, and join Yarn B, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail.

Continue to work St st in the round (knit every round) using Yarn B until Yarn B section measures 2.5 cm / 1".

divide for front and back

Divide the sts and prepare for working back and forth in rows as follows:

Split row (RS): K86 (94, 102, 112, 122, 130, 138, 146, 158) sts (half of your total sts), then place rem 86 (94, 102, 112, 122, 130, 138, 146, 158) sts on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder to be worked later. Turn work so WS is facing (so you can see purl bumps) and continue working in rows across 86 (94, 102, 112, 122, 130, 138, 146, 158) Front sts only.

Next row (WS): Purl.

FRONT

Work St st flat in rows as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rep Rows 1–2 until Yarn B section measures 11.5 (11.5, 11.5, 12.5, 12.5, 12.5, 14, 14, 14) cm / 4½ (4½, 4½, 5, 5, 5, 5½, 5½, 5½)", ending with a WS row.

divide for front neck shaping

Next row (RS): Work St st flat as set over 36 (40, 44, 48, 53, 56, 60, 64, 69) sts and place these sts on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder, bind off next 14 (14, 14, 16, 16, 18, 18, 18, 20) sts (1 st rem on right-hand needle after bind-off), k35 (39, 43, 47, 52, 55, 59, 63, 68) sts to end of row. Turn so WS is facing and continue on rem 36 (40, 44, 48, 53, 56, 60, 64, 69) sts for Right Front.

Next row (WS): Purl.

right front neck

Continue in St st as set (knitting RS rows, purling WS rows), and **AT THE SAME TIME** shape the Right Front neckline as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Bind off 2 (2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3) sts, k to end.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rep last 2 rows a further 1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2) time(s). *32 (34, 38, 42, 45, 48, 51, 55, 60) sts*

Next row (RS)(dec): K1, ssk, k to end. *1 st dec*

Next row (WS): Purl.

Rep last 2 rows a further 1 (1, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 4) time(s). *30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts*

Continue straight in St st as set until Yarn B section measures 19 (20.5, 21, 21.5, 24, 24, 25.5, 28, 29) cm / 7½ (8, 8¼, 8½, 9½, 9½, 10, 11, 11½)", ending with a

RS row.

Place rem 30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder.

left front neck

With WS facing, place the 36 (40, 44, 48, 53, 56, 60, 64, 69) held Front sts on larger-size 80 cm / 32" circular needle. Rejoin yarn at neck edge, continue working in Yarn B as set, and **AT THE SAME TIME** shape the Left Front neckline as follows:

Row 1 (WS): Bind off 2 (2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3) sts pwise, p to end.

Row 2 (RS): Knit.

Rep last 2 rows a further 0 (1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1) time(s), then work Row 1 only once more. *32 (34, 38, 42, 45, 48, 51, 55, 60) sts*

Next row (RS)(dec): K to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. *1 st dec*

Next row (WS): Purl.

Rep last 2 rows a further 1 (1, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 4) time(s). *30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts*

Continue straight in St st as set until Yarn B section measures 19 (20.5, 21, 21.5, 24, 24, 25.5, 28, 29) cm / 7½ (8, 8¼, 8½, 9½, 9½, 10, 11, 11½)", ending with a RS row.

Place rem 30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts on waste yarn or stitch holder.

BACK

With RS facing, place the 86 (94, 102, 112, 122, 130, 138, 146, 158) held Back sts on the larger-size 80 cm / 32" circular needle. Rejoin Yarn B and work back and forth in rows of St st until Yarn B section measures 19 (20.5, 21, 21.5, 24, 24, 25.5, 28, 29) cm / 7½ (8, 8¼, 8½, 9½, 9½, 10, 11, 11½)" to match Front in length, ending with a WS row.

Next Row (RS): K30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts, then place them on hold on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder for right shoulder, bind off next 26 (30, 32, 36, 38, 40, 42, 42, 48) Back sts (these will be the back of your neck) (1 st rem on right-hand needle after bind-off), k29 (31, 34, 37, 41, 44, 47, 51, 54) rem left shoulder sts to end and place sts on hold on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder.

join shoulders

Work a three-needle bind-off to join the shoulder as follows:

Place held Front and Back right shoulder sts onto 2 different larger-size DPNs or circular needles. With RSs together (so WSs are visible to you), join yarn at neck edge and work three-needle bind-off (see this page) over Front and Back right shoulder sts. Rep for left shoulder sts.

WAFFLE STITCH VERSION ONLY

Setup round: K86 (94, 102, 112, 122, 130, 138, 146, 158), M1L, PM (using a marker in a different color from the beg of round marker so you can tell them apart), k to end, M1L. *174 (190, 206, 226, 246, 262, 278, 294, 318) sts; 87 (95, 103, 113, 123, 131, 139, 147, 159) each for Front and Back*

Work Waffle Stitch in the round as follows:

Round 1: *K2, p1, [k1, p1] to 2 sts before next marker, k2; rep from * once more.

Round 2: Knit.

Rounds 1 and 2 set waffle stitch in the round.

Continue working reps of Rounds 1 and 2 until waffle Stitch section measures 2.5 cm / 1", ending with Round 2.

divide for front and back

Divide the sts and prepare for working back and forth in rows as follows:

Split row (RS): Work waffle stitch pattern as set to marker. Remove marker, place next 87 (95, 103, 113, 123, 131, 139, 147, 159) sts on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder to be worked later, remove beg of round marker. Turn your work so WS is facing (so you can see purl bumps) and continue in rows across the 87 (95, 103, 113, 123, 131, 139, 147, 159) Front sts only.

Next row (WS): Purl.

FRONT

Work waffle stitch flat in rows as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, p1, [k1, p1] to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 until waffle stitch section measures 11.5 (11.5, 11.5, 12.5, 12.5, 12.5, 14, 14, 14) cm / 4½ (4½, 4½, 5, 5, 5, 5½, 5½, 5½)", ending with a WS row.

divide for front neck shaping

Next row (RS): Work waffle stitch as set over next 36 (40, 44, 48, 53, 56, 60, 64, 69) sts and place these sts on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder, bind off next 15 (15, 15, 17, 17, 19, 19, 19, 21) sts (1 st rem on right-hand needle after bind-off), k35 (39, 43, 47, 52, 55, 59, 63, 68) sts to end of row. Turn so WS is facing and continue on rem 36 (40, 44, 48, 53, 56, 60, 64, 69) sts for Right Front.

Next row (WS): Purl.

right front neck

Continue in waffle stitch as set, and **AT THE SAME TIME** shape the Right Front neckline as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Bind off 2 (2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3) sts, continue in pattern to end.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rep last 2 rows a further 1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2) time(s). *32 (34, 38, 42, 45, 48, 51, 55, 60) sts*

Next row (RS)(dec): K1, ssk, continue in pattern to end. *1 st dec*

Next row (WS): Purl.

Rep last 2 rows a further 1 (1, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 4) time(s). *30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts*

Continue straight in waffle stitch as set until Waffle Stitch section measures 19 (20.5, 21, 21.5, 24, 24, 25.5, 28, 29) cm / 7½ (8, 8¼, 8½, 9½, 9½, 10, 11, 11½)", ending with a RS row.

Place rem 30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder.

left front neck

With WS facing, place the 36 (40, 44, 48, 53, 56, 60, 64, 69) held Front sts on larger-size 80 cm / 32" circular needle. Rejoin yarn at neck edge, continue working waffle stitch as set, and **AT THE SAME TIME** shape the Left Front neckline as follows:

Row 1 (WS): Bind off 2 (2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3) sts, p to end.

Row 2 (RS): Work in pattern to end.

Rep last 2 rows a further 0 (1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1) time(s), then work Row 1 only once more. *32 (34, 38, 42, 45, 48, 51, 55, 60) sts*

Next row (RS)(dec): Work in patt to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. *1 st dec*

Next row (WS): Purl.

Rep last 2 rows a further 1 (1, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 4) time(s). *30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts* Continue straight in waffle stitch as set until Waffle Stitch section measures 19 (20.5, 21, 21.5, 24, 24, 25.5, 28, 29) cm / 7½ (8, 8¼, 8½, 9½, 9½, 10, 11, 11½)", ending with a RS row.

Place rem 30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts on waste yarn or stitch holder.

BACK

With RS facing, place the 87 (95, 103, 113, 123, 131, 139, 147, 159) held Back sts on larger-size 80 cm / 32" circular needle. Rejoin yarn and work back and forth in rows of waffle stitch as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, p1, [k1, p1] to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 until section measures 19 (20.5, 21, 21.5, 24, 24, 25.5, 28, 29) cm / 7½ (8, 8¼, 8½, 9½, 9½, 10, 11, 11½)" to match Front in length, ending with a WS row.

Next Row (RS): Work waffle stitch as set over next 30 (32, 35, 38, 42, 45, 48, 52, 55) sts and place them on hold on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder for right shoulder, bind off next 27 (31, 33, 37, 39, 41, 43, 43, 49) Back sts (1 st rem on right-hand needle after bind-off), work in patt across 29 (31, 34, 37, 41, 44, 47, 51, 54) rem left shoulder sts to end and place sts on hold on a length of waste yarn or a stitch holder.

join shoulders

Work a three-needle bind-off to join the shoulder as follows:

Place held Front and Back right shoulder sts onto 2 different larger DPNs or circular needles. With RSs together (so WSs are visible to you), join yarn at neck edge and work three-needle bind-off (see this page) over Front and Back right shoulder sts. Rep for left shoulder sts.

BOTH VERSIONSsleeves (both alike)

With RS facing, using larger-size needles suitable for working small circumferences in the round and Yarn A if working Color-Block Version, beginning at bottom of armhole, pick up and k68 (72, 76, 80, 84, 88, 90, 98, 104) sts around the armhole opening. Join for working in the round and PM to indicate beg of round.

Knit 2 rounds.

Dec round: K1, k2tog, k to 3 sts before marker, ssk, k1. *2 sts dec*

Work St st in the round (knit every round) until Sleeve measures 5 (5, 5, 5, 4, 2.5, 4, 7.5, 5) cm / 2 (2, 2, 2, 1½, 1, 1½, 3, 2)".

Rep Dec round as set on next and every foll 5th (4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 3rd, 3rd) round a further 12 (14, 16, 16, 18, 20, 19, 23, 26) times. *40 (40, 40, 44, 44, 44, 48, 48, 48) sts*

Work St st in the round until Sleeve measures 33 (34.5, 34.5, 34.5, 37, 38, 38, 38, 40.5) cm / 13 (13½, 13½, 13½, 14½, 15, 15, 15, 16)" or 5 cm / 2" less than desired final length.

If you want a shorter Sleeve, just work a shorter length here. For a longer Sleeve, keep going a little longer.

cuff

Change to smaller-size needles.

Optional next round (as shown on Color-Block Version): Purl.

Work 2 × 2 rib in the round for 5 cm / 2".

Bind off loosely in 2 × 2 rib pattern.

BOTH VERSIONS neckline

Using smaller-size needles suitable for working small circumferences in the round and Yarn B if working

Color-Block Version, with RS facing, starting at left shoulder, pick up and k19 (20, 21, 21, 21, 22, 22, 22, 23) sts down Front left neck, 14 (14, 14, 16, 16, 18, 18, 18, 20) from Front bind-off sts, 19 (20, 21, 21, 21, 22, 22, 22, 23) sts up Front right neck, and 28 (30, 32, 36, 38, 40, 42, 42, 48) sts across Back neck bind-off sts. Join for working in the round and PM to indicate beg of round. *80 (84, 88, 94, 96, 102, 104, 104, 114) sts*

Next round: P across all sts, decreasing 0 (0, 0, 2, 0, 2, 4, 0, 2) sts evenly across the round. *80 (84, 88, 92, 96, 100, 100, 104, 112) sts*

This means spacing decreases—if applicable—at roughly equal intervals, using p2tog (see this page for p2tog tutorial).

Work 2 × 2 rib for 2.5 cm / 1".

Bind off loosely in 2 × 2 rib pattern.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements, taking care not to overstretch the bottom rib.

a. Chest circumference: 97 (106, 115, 126.5, 138, 146.5, 155.5, 165, 178.5) cm / 38¼ (41¾, 45¼, 49¾, 54¼, 57¾, 61¼, 65, 70¼)"

b. Length (hem to underarm): 33 (33, 35.5, 35.5, 35.5, 38, 40.5, 43, 43) cm / 13 (13, 14, 14, 14, 15, 16, 17, 17)"

c. Neck circumference: 45 (47.5, 49.5, 52, 54, 56.5, 56.5, 58.5, 63.5) cm / 17¾ (18¾, 19½, 20½, 21¼, 22¼, 22¼, 23, 25)"

d. Shoulder width: 17 (18, 19.5, 21.5, 23.5, 25.5, 27.5, 29, 31) cm / 6¾ (7, 7¾, 8½, 9¼, 10, 10¾, 11½, 12¼)"

e. Cuff circumference: 23 (23, 23, 25, 25, 25, 27.5, 27.5, 27.5) cm / 9 (9, 9, 9¾, 9¾, 9¾, 10¾, 10¾, 10¾)"

f. Upper arm circumference: 38 (40.5, 43, 45, 47.5, 49.5, 51, 55, 58.5) cm / 15 (16, 17, 17¾, 18¾, 19½, 20, 21¾, 23)"

purl two together (p2tog) decrease

1. This method of decreasing uses all the same actions as a standard purl stitch, except that the first and second stitches are worked together.

2. Insert your right-hand needle into these two stitches like a purl stitch. First enter the right-hand side of the first stitch, then go through the second. Wrap the yarn just like a purl stitch.

3. Draw the wrapped yarn through and drop two stitches off of the left-hand needle.

picking up stitches

1. Ready to pick up stitches.

2. With the right side of your work facing you, hold one needle in your right hand. Insert the tip of the needle into the first stitch, under both strands at the edge (to pick up this stitch).

3. Wrap the yarn around your needle and draw a loop through—the same steps you use to knit a stitch.

4. Repeat steps 2 and 3, evenly picking up stitches along the edge of your work.

5. Here we've picked up fifteen stitches.

6. You can now knit across these stitches as normal.

three-needle bind-off

1. Begin with needles parallel and stitches at the tips. For these sweaters, the right sides of the fabric should be together and the wrong side should be facing you so that the seam will be on the inside of the sweaters. Use a DPN or spare needle to work the bind-off.

2. Insert the DPN knitwise through the first stitch on your front needle then the first stitch on the back needle. Wrap the yarn around the back needle as in a knit stitch.

3. Draw the wrapped loop through, allowing the first stitches from the front and back needle to drop off.

4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 once; you now have two stitches on the DPN.

5. Use the front needle to pick up the first stitch on your DPN and lift and leapfrog the first stitch over the second stitch (like you would for a regular bind-off). Drop the picked-up stitch off the end of the DPN, removing your left-hand needle from the loop and making sure that the second stitch remains on the DPN.

6. One stitch bound off. Repeat steps 4 and 5 to bind off all stitches until one stitch remains. Finish the last stitch as you would a normal bind-off.

project 9: **SIMPLE LACE COWL**

This cowl is perfect for autumn, when there's a chill in the air but it's not quite time to get the chunky knits out. The simple lace will help you master the basics of lace knitting, which is nothing more than knitting with decorative holes between your stitches (a bit like regular lace). To start with, you will want to carefully keep track of where you are in the sequence of rows that make the pattern. If you are working from the written instructions, you could use a row counter (a little gadget you can get from your LYS) or just keep a tally. After a while, you may get a feel for what's next as the repeat starts to become more intuitive. Lace knitting is one area where charts really help (in our opinion). So if you haven't tried them yet, we recommend you give them a go here.

top tips

chart repeats

Keep track of which row of the chart you are on in lace knitting by marking your chart with a sticky note or decorative washi tape (*above* the row, so you can read the chart as you knit). If you don't already know washi tape, it's a low-tack Japanese paper tape that you can find in most stationery and craft shops.

When you look at the chart for this pattern, you'll notice a box in a different color around the section of the rows that should be repeated. This works in the same way as bracketed repeats in written patterns: Repeat the stitches inside the box for the row you are working as many times as instructed. Then move on to the next stitch after the boxed repeat.

yarn overs

This cowl uses yarn overs to create decorative lacy holes. You may remember these from the bandanas earlier in the book (see this page), where we used them as decorative increases to make a pleasing triangle shape. As well as making a little (pretty and intentional) hole in your knitting, a yarn over creates a new stitch (hence its use as an increase). For this pattern, we don't want to increase the stitch count, so in order to stop your cowl from getting wider and wider, each yarn over is paired with a decrease to keep your number of stitches nice and stable.

notes on construction:

This cowl is knit flat as a rectangle and seamed short end to short end to form a loop.

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)
- Binding off in pattern (see this page)
- Reading from charts (see this page)
- Yarn overs (see this page)
- Horizontal mattress stitch (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Reading boxed repeats on charts
- Working yarn overs and decreases together

bonus info:

Lace knitting can be addictive. It’s a lot of fun seeing the pattern emerge, and often you get a strong urge to just do one more row (and then just one more . . .). When it comes to knitting lace, blocking really is your BFF. Sometimes it can look unimpressive until it’s blocked properly. Blocking helps open the lace up and reveal its true glory. We highly recommend knitting and blocking a swatch for this one so you can see the magic happen before you get started on the main thing.

pattern 9 **SARAH simple lace cowl**

One size: 20.5 cm / 8" wide x 134.5 cm / 53" circumference

Yarn: Manos del Uruguay Sami (DK weight; 100% superwash merino wool; 250 m / 273 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Peonies (*pink*); 2 skeins

OR

Ritual Dyes Priestess (DK weight; 100% merino wool; 200 m / 218 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Hyacinth (*blue*); 2 skeins

OR approx 385 m / 421 yds of DK weight yarn

Gauge: 22 sts & 24 rows = 10 cm / 4" over lace pattern on 5-mm / US 8 needles, unstretched, after blocking

Needles: 5 mm / US 8 knitting needles

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 9 stitch markers (optional), tapestry needle

written instructions for lace pattern

Row 1 (RS): K3, p2, [k2tog, yo, k1, p2] 8 times, k3.

Row 2 (WS): P3, [k2, p3] to end.

Row 3: K3, p2, [k1, yo, ssk, p2] 8 times, k3.

Row 4 (WS): Rep Row 2.

PATTERN

Using the long-tail method, cast on 48 sts.

Setup row (WS): P3, [k2, p3] to end.

lace pattern

Starting with a RS Row 1, commence Lace Pattern, reading from the Chart or Written Instructions above, and working the main boxed repeat 8 times.

note: You may find it helpful to place markers between each repeat of the Lace Pattern.

Rep Rows 1–4 of Lace Pattern until scarf measures 134.5 cm / 53" from cast-on edge, ending after Row 4.

Bind off in [k3, p2] rib.

FINISHING

Seam the two short ends together using horizontal mattress stitch and weave in ends. Block to measurements.

a. Width: 20.5 cm / 8"

b. Circumference: 134.5 cm / 53"

chart for lace pattern

key

project 10: RAGLAN PULLOVER

This raglan pullover is simple to make and even easier to wear. The best thing about it? Absolutely zero seaming to do, because it's knit completely in the round, all in one piece. This clever way of creating a sweater is a classic, and raglans are extremely comfortable because the armholes are usually pretty roomy. We like ours with lots of ease (aka oversized), but the fit is totally up to you. The whole of the sweater (excluding the neckband and cuffs) is in smooth stockinette, so if you're feeling frisky, you might try working the whole thing in stripes or blocks of color to add interest.

notes on construction:

This raglan begins at the neckline and then is worked downward from there, with increases made at four points, where the front and back meet the sleeves. The increases continue until the widest circumference of the body is reached at the bottom of the armholes. At this point, the stitches for the sleeves are placed on hold, and the torso portion of the sweater is worked downward to the hem. Then you return to the sleeves and knit each one down to the cuffs. Finally, stitches are picked up at the neckline for the collar.

top tip: try it on as you go

One of the amazing things about knitting a raglan sweater from the top down and in the round is that you can try it on as you go. This helps you decide if you like the fit, whether your yoke feels deep enough, and then if you like the length. To do this, you'll want to place all your stitches on waste yarn (see this page). If you attempt to try on your sweater while it's still on the needles, you run the risk of the stitches falling off. Keep in mind that your fabric might grow when you block it, so this pre-blocking try-on just gives you an estimate of how it will fit after blocking.

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Backward loop cast-on (see this page)
- Small-circumference knitting in the round (see this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)

- Decreasing (ktog and ssk, see this page & this page)
- Increasing (M1L and M1R, see this page & this page)
- Picking up stitches (see this page)
- Putting stitches on hold (see this page)
- Binding off in pattern (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Working from the top down
- Raglan construction

bonus info:

You'll see diagonal lines in the fabric from the neck to the armpit—this is the raglan seam. For this pullover, your increases create the raglan shaping.

pattern 10 GAYLEraglan pullover

stitch glossary 1

×1 rib in the round

Worked over an even number of sts.

Round 1: [K1, p1] to end.

Rep Round 1 for patt.

Sizes: 1 (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

Finished chest (fullest point) circumference: 92.5 (104, 113, 122, 131, 139.5, 151, 169.5, 184, 202) cm / 36½ (41, 44½, 48, 51½, 55, 59½, 66¾, 72½, 79½)", to be worn with approx 20.5–30.5 cm / 8–12" positive ease

Yarn: West Wool Tandem (DK weight; 100% South American merino wool; 233 m / 254 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: French Grey; 4 (4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8) skeins

OR

Pom Pom x Hobbii Garland (worsted weight; 70% cotton,30% alpaca; 105 m / 114 yds per 50-g / 1.75-oz ball)

Shade: Whim (01); 7 (9, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17) balls OR approx 730 (845, 938, 1032, 1128, 1224, 1343, 1498, 1589, 1717) m / 798 (924, 1025, 1128, 1233, 1338, 1468, 1638, 1738, 1878) yds of worsted weight yarn

Gauge: 18 sts & 28 rows = 10 cm / 4" over stockinette stitch worked in the round on 4.5-mm / US 7 needles, after blocking

Needles: 4 mm / US 6 circular needles (80–100 cm / 32–40" length AND 40 cm / 16" length) AND needles suitable for working small circumferences in the round

4.5 mm / US 7 circular needles (80–100 cm / 32–40" length AND 40 cm / 16" length) AND needles suitable for working small circumferences in the round

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 5 stitch markers (including 1 unique marker for beginning of round), waste yarn or stitch holders, tapestry needle

PATTERN yoke

Using the larger-size 40 cm / 16" circular needle and the long-tail method, cast on 100 (100, 104, 108, 112, 116, 124, 124, 130, 130) sts. Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist. PM to indicate beg of round, which sits at center of right Sleeve.

Setup round: K8, PM, k34 (34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 46, 46, 49, 49), PM, k16, PM, k34 (34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 46, 46, 49, 49), PM, k8.

note: Change to longer circular needle when necessary, as the Yoke circumference increases.

Round 1 (inc): [K to last st before marker, M1R, k1, SM, k1, M1L] 4 times, k to end. *8 sts inc*

Round 2: Knit.

Rounds 1 and 2 set raglan increase patt.

Rep Rounds 1 and 2 a further 22 (26, 29, 32, 34, 37, 39, 37, 33, 27) times. *284 (316, 344, 372, 392, 420, 444, 428, 402, 354) sts*

SIZES 8, 9 & 10 ONLY

Round 1 (inc): [K to last st before marker, M1R, k1, SM, k1, M1L] 4 times, k to end. *8 sts inc*

Round 2 (inc): [K to marker, SM, k1, M1L, k to last st before marker, M1R, k1, SM] twice, k to end. *4 sts inc; 2 sts each on front and back*

Round 3 (inc): Rep Round 2. *4 sts inc; 2 sts each on front and back*

Round 4: Knit.

Rep Rounds 1–4 a further - (-, -, -, -, -, -, 2, 4, 8) times. - *(-, -, -, -, -, -, 476, 482, 498) sts*

ALL SIZES AGAIN

After Yoke shaping is complete, there will be 80 (88, 96, 104, 110, 118, 126, 140, 147, 159) sts each for front and back; 62 (70, 76, 82, 86, 92, 96, 98, 94, 90) sts each for Sleeves.

divide body and sleeves as foll:

Next round: Remove beg of round marker, k to marker, SM, k to marker, remove marker, place next 62 (70, 76, 82, 86, 92, 96, 98, 94, 90) sts on holder for left Sleeve, remove marker, using backward loop method cast on 1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10) st(s), PM for left side “seam,” cast on 1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10) st(s), k to marker, remove marker, place next 62 (70, 76, 82, 86, 92, 96, 98, 94, 90) sts on holder for right Sleeve, remove marker, cast on 1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10) st(s), PM for new beg of round at right side “seam,” cast on 1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10) st(s), k to left side “seam” marker, SM, k to end of round. *164 (184, 200, 216, 232, 248, 268, 300, 326, 358) sts*

body

Round 1: Knit.

Rep Round 1 until piece measures 18 cm / 7" from underarm or 4.5 cm / 1¾" less than desired final length from underarm.

hem

Change to smaller needles.

Work in 1 × 1 rib in the round until hem measures 4.5 cm / 1¾", removing left side “seam” marker as you pass it on final round.

Bind off loosely in rib.

sleeves (both alike)

With RS facing, using larger-size needles suitable for working small circumferences in the round and beg at center of underarm, pick up and k1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10) st(s) from underarm cast-on, k across held Sleeve sts, pick up and k1 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10) st(s) from underarm cast-on, join to work in the round, PM for beg of round. *64 (74, 80, 86, 92, 98, 104, 108, 110, 110) sts*

Dec round: K2tog, k to last 2 sts, ssk. *2 sts dec*

Next round: Knit.

Continue in St st and rep Dec round every 6th (4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd) round a further 11 (16, 19, 20, 10, 10, 27, 27, 28, 28) times. *40 (40, 40, 44, 70, 76, 48, 52, 52, 52) sts*

SIZES 5 & 6 ONLY

Rep Dec round every 3rd round a further 13 (14) times. - (-, -, -, *44, 48, -, -, -, -) sts*

ALL SIZES AGAIN

Work straight in St st until Sleeve measures 35.5 cm / 14" or 5 cm / 2" less than desired length.

cuff

Change to smaller-size needles.

Work 1 × 1 rib in the round until cuff measures 5 cm / 2".

Bind off loosely in rib.

collar

With RS facing, using smaller-size 40 cm / 16" circular needle and beg at center of left shoulder, pick up and k100 (100, 104, 108, 112, 116, 124, 124, 130, 130) sts around neckline. Join to work in the round, PM to indicate beg of round.

Knit 1 round and **AT THE SAME TIME** evenly dec 8 (8, 8, 12, 12, 12, 16, 16, 18, 18) sts across the round. *92 (92, 96, 96, 100, 104, 108, 108, 112, 112) sts*

Work in 1 × 1 rib in the round until Collar measures 15 cm / 6".

Bind off loosely in rib.

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Chest circumference: 92.5 (104, 113, 122, 131, 139.5, 151, 169.5, 184, 202) cm / 36½ (41, 44½, 48, 51½, 55, 59½, 66¾, 72½, 79½)"

b. Length (hem to underarm): 22 cm / 8¾"

c. Upper arm circumference: 36 (42, 45, 48.5, 52, 55, 58.5, 61, 62, 62) cm / 14¼ (16½, 17¾, 19, 20½, 21¾, 23, 24, 24½, 24½)"

d. Yoke depth down center front: 17 (19.5, 21.5, 24, 25.5, 27, 29, 32, 32, 33.5) cm / 6¾ (7¾, 8½, 9½, 10, 10¾, 11½, 12½, 12½, 13¼)"

e. Cuff circumference: 22 (22, 22, 24.5, 24.5, 26.5, 26.5, 29, 29, 29) cm / 8¾ (8¾, 8¾, 9¾, 9¾, 10½, 10½, 11½, 11½, 11½)"

f. Neck circumference: 51 (51, 53.5, 53.5, 55.5, 57.5, 60, 60, 62, 62) cm / 20 (20, 21, 21, 22, 22¾, 23½, 23½, 24½, 24½)"

g. Sleeve length: 40.5 cm / 16"

how raglans are made

This raglan sweater has a simple construction that doesn't require any seaming. Here's a breakdown of how you'll be making this sweater from start to finish.

1. After casting on and joining to work in the round, you increase at four points. Your work will grow with your increases as shown. The blue arrows show where the increases happen.

2. Next, you put the stitches for your sleeves on hold by placing them onto waste yarn. Your body stitches remain on the needles. The blue arrow shows the direction that the sweater has been worked so far.

3. Once the body is finished, you rejoin the yarn to the sleeve as shown. The blue arrow shows the direction that the body was worked.

4. Once the first sleeve is completed, you rejoin the yarn to the second one. The blue arrow shows the direction the first sleeve was worked.

5. Finally, you work your neckline by picking up stitches and knitting them. The blue arrows show the direction the neck was worked. Your sweater is complete.

project 11: **FIRST CARDIGAN**

A wardrobe staple, the classic cardi is the ultimate transformational item. Think about it. Weather can't make up its mind? Throw on your cardigan. Your outfit needs a splash of color? That's right, it's cardigan time. There are very few situations where this cozy cardi won't be welcome. You might even find you need one in every color. Plus, now that you've mastered so many techniques, it's time to put them together. Of course, we're still here to guide you through the new steps as you progress with circular needles. Think of how far you've come from those first few stitches . . . Can you knit this? We say yes you cardi-CAN!

top tips

knitting flat on circular needles

As you may remember from Project 4 (John and Juliet, Cuffs in the Round), it's possible to knit flat (in rows) on circular needles. In fact, we prefer to use circular needles to knit flat, for lots of reasons. For us, the pros are that you can't lose one of your needles, and the stitches are less likely to slip off the end of your needles when you don't want them to. Of course, there's no problem using straight needles for most flat knitting . . . except when you need to hold a large number of stitches at one time. For this cardigan, you will be working body and sleeve stitches at once. This means a lot of stitches, so circular needles will definitely make your life easier.

working two sets of instructions at the same time

Often in more complex patterns, you will be asked to work two sets of instructions "at the same time." This might be a set of increases or decreases that are run parallel to an established stitch pattern, like stripes, for example. This can be quite tricky because they can have different length repeats, such as increasing every five rows while changing stripes every eight rows. A clever way to keep track of your instructions is to draw out a little table with your row numbers on one side and the relevant instructions on the other. This way you know that when you get to a certain row, you may work one particular instruction, or both, and so on. Sometimes you will work both sets of instructions on the same row. This is where this table can come in handy, to remind you where you are and what is happening on any given row. For your first go at this, we've created a table for you.

notes on construction:

The cardigan is worked from the neckline down, with the yoke and body worked flat on circular needles and the sleeves worked in the round. The cardigan features alternating bands of garter stitch and stockinette stitch. Then the neck, hem, and cuffs are all worked in garter stitch.

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)
- Small-circumference knitting in the round (see this page)
- Decreasing (ktog and ssk, see this page & this page)
- Backward loop cast-on (see this page)
- Increasing (M1L and M1R, see this page & this page)
- Picking up stitches (see this page)
- Putting stitches on hold (see this page)
- Raglan construction (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Knitting flat on circular needles
- Working “at the same time" instructions

pattern 11 **FRANKIE first cardigan**

Sizes: 1 (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

Finished chest measurement (open at front): 86.5 (95.5, 103, 112.5, 124.5, 131.5, 138, 149, 164.5, 176.5) cm / 34 (37½, 40½, 44¼, 49, 51¾, 54¼, 58¾, 64¾, 69½)", to be worn with 5–10 cm / 2–4" positive ease

Tegan, wearing the purple version, has a 111 cm / 44" chest, stands 168 cm / 5'6" tall, and is wearing a size 4.

Aname', wearing the green version, has an 86 cm / 34" chest, stands 170 cm / 5'7" tall, and is wearing a size 2.

Yarn: (*purple version*) Julie Asselin Nurtured (worsted weight; 100% fine wool: Rambouillet, Targhee, and merino; 119 m / 130 yds per 60-g / 2.12-oz skein)

Shade: Lilas; 6 (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 11, 13, 14, 15) skeins

OR

(*green version*) Purl Soho Yonder (worsted weight; 50% alpaca, 50% Highland wool; 128 m / 140 yds per 100-g / 3.5-oz skein)

Shade: Kelp Forest; 6 (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10, 12, 13, 14) skeins

OR approx 708 (768, 846, 965, 1084, 1199, 1276, 1430, 1614, 1761) m / 714 (774, 853, 973, 1092, 1208, 1286, 1442, 1626, 1774) yds of worsted weight yarn

Gauge: 14 sts & 25 rows = 10 cm / 4" over stockinette stitch on 5.5-mm / US 9 needles after blocking

Needles: 5.5 mm / US 9 circular needle (80 cm / 32" length) AND needles suitable for working small circumferences in the round

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 2 sets of differently colored stitch markers (6 of color A, 4 of color B), stitch holders or waste yarn, tapestry needle

This drawing shows how the yoke looks as you are working it. The arrows indicate where increases are made. The markers are labelled - remember they bookend the body and sleeve sections and indicate the different rates of increase.

PATTERN yoke

Using long-tail method, cast on 65 (65, 68, 73, 78, 81, 82, 84, 87, 89) sts.

Knit 7 rows.

Setup row (WS): K5, PM A, k1, PM A, k1, PM B, k12 (12, 12, 14, 16, 17, 17, 18, 19, 20), PM B, k1, PM A, k25 (25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 32, 33, 33), PM A, k1, PM B, k12 (12, 12, 14, 16, 17, 17, 18, 19, 20), PM B, k1, PM A, k1, PM A, k5.

Row 1 (RS)(inc): K5, SM A, k1, M1R, SM A, k1, SM B, M1L, k to marker, M1R, SM B, k1, SM A, M1L, k to marker, M1R, SM A, k1, SM B, M1L, k to marker, M1R, SM B, k1, SM A, M1L, k1, SM A, k5. *73 (73, 76, 81, 86, 89, 90, 92, 95, 97) sts*

Row 2 (WS): K5, p to last 5 sts, slipping markers as you pass them, k5.

note: The Sleeves and Body increase at slightly different rates, so using two different colored stitch markers will help identify which is which.

Read the following section through carefully before knitting, as you will be working multiple instructions **AT THE SAME TIME**. Two types of increase rows are worked, depending on whether you are increasing on the Body and Sleeve or the Body only (don't work these rows just yet, keep reading):

Body and Sleeve Inc row (RS): K5, SM A, k to marker, M1R, SM A, k1, SM B, M1L, k to marker, M1R, SM B, k1, SM A, M1L, k to marker, M1R, SM A, k1, SM B, M1L, k to marker, M1R, SM B, k1, SM A, M1L, k to marker, SM A, k5. *2 sts inc on Back; 1 st inc each Front; 2 sts inc each Sleeve*

Body ONLY Inc row (RS): K5, SM A, k to marker, M1R, SM A, k1, SM B, k to marker, SM B, k1, SM A, M1L, k to marker, M1R, SM A, k1, SM B, k to marker, SM B, k1, SM A, M1L, k to marker, SM A, k5. *2 sts inc on Back; 1 st inc each Front*

Refer to table on this page for row-by-row instructions.

Work non-increase rows in pattern, slipping markers as you pass them. All WS rows are worked as Row 2, above.

Maintaining garter st front bands over first and last 5 sts of every row throughout, continue in St st and begin raglan increases as foll:

shape yoke

Increase on Body on next row, then every 2nd row a further 8 (11, 13, 19, 24, 27, 29, 32, 36, 39) times, then every 4th row 6 (6, 6, 3, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) times. *15 (18, 20, 23, 26, 28, 30, 33, 37, 40) sts increased each Front and 30 (36, 40, 46, 52, 56, 60, 66, 74, 80) sts increased for Back*

AT THE SAME TIME, increase on Sleeve on next row, then every 2nd row a further 6 (3, 3, 7, 10, 15, 15, 14, 14, 13) times, then every 4th row 7 (10, 11, 9, 8, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13) times. *28 (28, 30, 34, 38, 44, 46, 48, 52, 54) sts increased for each Sleeve.*

AT THE SAME TIME

When 42 (48, 52, 52, 54, 56, 60, 66, 74, 80) rows have been worked from cast-on edge, ending with a RS row, work next 10 rows in garter st, including Body and Sleeve raglan increases if necessary.

When raglan shaping and garter st band have been completed, there will be 189 (201, 216, 241, 266, 289, 302, 320, 347, 365) sts total: 5 sts each front band; 4 raglan sts; 42 (42, 44, 50, 56, 63, 65, 68, 73, 76) sts each Sleeve; 57 (63, 70, 77, 84, 89, 94, 100, 109, 115) sts for Back; 17 (20, 22, 25, 28, 30, 32, 35, 39, 42) sts each Front.

Maintaining 5-st garter bands at Fronts, beg with a RS knit row, work 5 rows in St st.

divide body and sleeves

Next row (RS): Removing markers as you pass them, k23 (26, 28, 31, 34, 36, 38, 41, 45, 48) sts across Right Front, place next 42 (42, 44, 50, 56, 63, 65, 68, 73, 76) sts on hold for Right Sleeve, using backward loop method cast on 7 (7, 7, 7, 9, 9, 9, 11, 13, 15) sts for underarm, k59 (65, 72, 79, 86, 91, 96, 102, 111, 117) sts across Back, place next 42 (42, 44, 50, 56, 63, 65, 68, 73, 76) sts on hold for Left Sleeve, using backward loop method cast on 7 (7, 7, 7, 9, 9, 9, 11, 13, 15) sts for underarm, k to end. *119 (131, 142, 155, 172, 181, 190, 206, 227, 243) Body sts*

lower body

Maintaining 5-st garter bands at Fronts, continue working flat on Body sts only as foll:

Beg with a purl row, work 9 rows in St st.

Work 10 rows in garter st.

Beg with a knit row, work 14 rows in St st.

Work 13 (13, 13, 19, 19, 23, 23, 25, 25, 27) rows in garter st.

Bind off.

sleeves (both alike)

Using needles suitable for working small circumferences in the round, with RS facing and working from right to left, pick up and k7 (7, 7, 7, 9, 9, 9, 11, 13, 15) sts across underarm cast-on sts, k across 42 (42, 44, 50, 56, 63, 65, 68, 73, 76) held Sleeve sts, join for working in the round, ssk, k3 (3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 6, 7), PM to indicate beg of round. *49 (49, 51, 57, 65, 72, 74, 79, 86, 91) sts*

note: Read the following section carefully before beginning, as Sleeve decreases and textured sequence are worked **AT THE SAME TIME.**

Work in texture sequence as foll:

Work 7 rounds in St st.

Beg with a purl round, work 9 rounds in garter st (purl 1 round, knit 1 round).

Work 13 rounds in St st.

Rep last 22 rounds a further 3 times.

Work in garter st for remainder of Sleeve.

AT THE SAME TIME, shape Sleeves as foll:

Work in pattern for 5 rounds.

Dec round: K2tog, work in patt to last 2 sts, ssk. *2 sts dec*

Rep Dec round every 8th (10th, 8th, 8th, 6th, 6th, 6th, 6th, 4th, 4th) round 11 (4, 11, 5, 12, 6, 4, 2, 20, 20) times, then every 0 (8th, 0, 6th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 2nd, 2nd) round 0 (6, 0, 8, 4, 13, 16, 20, 5, 7) times. *25 (27, 27, 29, 31, 32, 32, 33, 34, 35) sts*

Work straight until Sleeve measures 42.5 (43, 44, 44, 44.5, 44.5, 45.5, 47, 48.5, 48.5) cm / 16¾ (17, 17¼, 17¼, 17½, 17½, 18, 18½, 19, 19)".

Bind off all sts.

frankie raglan increase chart

FINISHING

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Chest measurement (open): 86.5 (95.5, 103, 112.5, 124.5, 131.5, 138, 149, 164.5, 176.5) cm / 34 (37½, 40½, 44¼, 49, 51¾, 54¼, 58¾, 64¾, 69½)"

b. Yoke length at center front (excluding neckband): 18.5 (20.5, 22, 22, 23, 24, 25.5, 28, 31, 34) cm / 7¼ (8, 8¾, 8¾, 9, 9½, 10, 11, 12¼, 13¼)"

c. Length (underarm to hem): 20.5 (20.5, 20.5, 23, 23, 24, 24, 25.5, 25.5, 26) cm / 8 (8, 8, 9, 9, 9½, 9½, 10, 10, 10¼)"

d. Neck width: 18 (18, 20.5, 21, 21.5, 22.5, 23, 23, 24, 24) cm / 7 (7, 8, 8¼, 8½, 8¾, 9, 9, 9½, 9½)"

e. Upper arm circumference: 35.5 (35.5, 37, 41.5, 47, 52, 54, 57, 62, 66) cm / 14 (14, 14½, 16¼, 18½, 20½, 21¼, 22½, 24½, 26)"

f. Cuff circumference: 18.5 (19.5, 19.5, 21, 22, 23.5, 23.5, 24, 25, 25.5) cm / 7 (7¾, 7¾, 8¼, 8¾, 9¼, 9¼, 9½, 9¾, 10)"

g. Sleeve length: 42.5 (43, 44, 44, 44.5, 44.5, 45.5, 47, 48.5, 48.5) cm / 16¾ (17, 17¼, 17¼, 17½, 17½, 18, 18½, 19, 19)"

project 12: **SIMPLE SOCKS**

It might seem odd to make something that will likely only ever be worn at home or hidden in a shoe. But we promise you that handmade socks are one of the greatest pleasures that knitting can bring. There is no sock more comfortable, and it's hard to beat wool for keeping toes warm. These socks are designed to be worn around the house and to bed, or inside boots or clogs in the cold months. Knit in a relatively thick yarn, these socks knit up in a snap while guiding you through the fundamentals of how sock construction works. Mostly they are knit in the round, but the real magic happens when you "turn the heel." It's difficult to explain a heel turn in the abstract, so we fully recommend following the instructions without studying them too much beforehand. Be careful who you give your handmade socks to—they are addictive, and you may be fielding many requests for your handiwork.

top tip: short rows

Put simply, *short rows* are partially worked rows. Imagine you have ten stitches, and you knit five of them and then turn your work before the end of the row, then work back over that first five. That's a short row. There are a lot of ways to work short rows and a lot of reasons to use them. We find the kind of short rows worked in this type of heel are the easiest, and we think they make a great introduction to the concept. Short rows help to create extra fabric in just one area, for example, a heel.

bonus info:

There are many, many ways to turn a heel. This pattern uses a garden-variety, tried and tested technique. It also happens to be a favorite here at Pom Pom. It's simple and effective and makes very comfy socks. If you find your interest in the engineering of socks piqued after making these, then do try out other methods as soon as you feel ready. You may only try some heel techniques once, but oh boy, will you learn.

As a side note, making a heel turn is one of the knitting techniques that really brings home how technically impressive knitting can be; it's the original 3-D printing.

notes on construction:

These socks are knit top down, which means you start at the ribbing around the leg and work downward.

You then turn your heel and work the foot, finally decreasing for the toe.

techniques you need to know:

- Long-tail cast-on (see this page)
- Knit stitch (see this page)
- Purl stitch (see this page)
- Joining for working in the round (see this page)
- Using stitch markers (see this page)
- Small-circumference knitting in the round (see this page)
- Decreasing (k2tog, ssk, p2tog, and k2tog, see this page, this page, and this page)
- Picking up stitches (see this page)
- Threading yarn through remaining stitches (see this page)
- Weaving in ends (see this page)
- Blocking to measurements (see this page)

techniques introduced:

- Short rows
- Grafting (aka Kitchener stitch)

pattern 12 **RACHEL simple socks**

Sizes: 1 (2, 3, 4)

Foot circumference: 18.5 (20.5, 23.5, 25.5) cm / 7¼ (8, 9¼, 10)"

Foot length: Adjust to fit

Yarn: Fyberspates x CoopKnits Socks Yeah!DK (DK weight; 75% superwash merino wool, 25% nylon; 112 m / 122 yds per 50-g / 1.75-oz skein)

Shades:

Yarn A: Petalite (*heathered cream*); 1 (1, 1, 1) skein

Yarn B: Ammolite (*pink*); 2 (2, 3, 3) skeins

OR

Yarn A: Unakite (*heathered brown*); 1 (1, 1, 1) skein

Yarn B: Chiron (*dark red*); 2 (2, 3, 3) skeins

OR approx:

Yarn A: 42 (49, 61, 67) m / 46 (53, 66, 73) yds of DK weight yarn

Yarn B: 149 (179, 229, 267) m / 163 (195, 250, 292) yds of DK weight yarn

note: Yarn quantity given is for approx finished foot length of 23 (25, 26, 28) cm / 9 (9¾, 10¼, 11)".

Gauge: 24 sts & 28 rows = 10 cm / 4" over stockinette stitch worked in the round on 3.75-mm / US 5 needles after blocking

Needles: 3.75 mm / US 5 circular needle, 80 cm / 32" length for working Magic Loop, OR a set of 4 DPNs—pattern includes instructions for both types of needles.

Always use a needle size that will result in the correct gauge after blocking.

Notions: 3 stitch markers, tapestry needle

PATTERN (MAKE 2 ALIKE) cuff

Using Yarn A and the long-tail method, cast on 44 (48, 56, 60) sts. Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist. PM to indicate beg of round.

Distribute the sts evenly over the needles—if you are working Magic Loop technique, split the sts in half with 22 (24, 28, 30) sts on each needle. For DPNs, distribute sts as follows: 16 (16, 20, 20) sts on Needle 1; 16 (16, 20, 20) sts on Needle 2; 12 (16, 16, 20) sts on Needle 3; and use Needle 4 to knit with.

Round 1: [K2, p2] to end of round.

Round 1 sets 2 × 2 rib.

Work in 2 × 2 rib for a further 11 rounds, or until piece measures 4 cm / 1½" from cast-on edge.

Cut Yarn A, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail.

leg

Next Round: Join Yarn B and k to end of round.

Work St st in the round (knit every round) until Leg measures 14 (14, 15, 15) cm / 5½ (5½, 6, 6)" from cast-on edge.

If you would like longer or shorter socks, you can adjust the length here, but remember you may need more yarn.

heel flap

Setup row (RS): K11 (12, 14, 15), turn your work so that the WS (purl side) is facing.

Setup row (WS): Sl1 pwise wyif, p22 (24, 28, 30), removing beg of round marker as you pass it.

These 22 (24, 28, 30) sts just worked are your Heel sts. You will be working back and forth on them in short rows to form the Heel Flap.

The rem 22 (24, 28, 30) sts will be worked later for the instep. If you are using Magic Loop, the instep sts can be left on the cable while you work the Heel sts. If you are using DPNs, leave the instep sts on two DPNs while you work the rows with the other two.

Row 1 (RS): Sl1 pwise wyib, k to end.

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 a further 8 (9, 11, 13) times. *9 (10, 12, 14) slipped sts along each selvedge edge of the Heel Flap*

turn heel

Shape the Heel using short rows, as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K13 (14, 17, 19), ssk, k1, turn work. *1 st dec*

Row 2 (WS): Sl1 pwise wyif, p5 (5, 7, 9), p2tog, p1, turn. *1 st dec*

Row 3: Sl1 pwise wyib, k to 1 st before gap formed on previous row, ssk (1 st from each side of gap), k1, turn. *1 st dec*

Row 4: Sl1 pwise wyif, p to 1 st before gap formed on previous row, p2tog (1 st from each side of gap), p1, turn. *1 st dec*

Rep Rows 3 and 4 a further 2 (2, 3, 3) times.

Next row: K to last 2 sts, ssk, turn.

Next row: P to last 2 sts, p2tog, turn.

All Heel sts have been worked and 12 (14, 16, 18) Heel sts rem.

shape gusset

note: Instructions are different depending on whether you are working on DPNs or Magic Loop.

for dpns ONLY

Setup round: Using Needle 1, sl1, k11 (13, 15, 17) Heel sts, pick up and k1 st in each of the 9 (10, 12, 14) slipped sts along the side of the Heel Flap, pick up and k1 st between the Heel Flap and instep to close the gap; using Needle 2, k across the 22 (24, 28, 30) held instep sts; using Needle 3, pick up and k1 st between the Heel Flap and instep to close the gap, pick up and k1 st in each of the 9 (10, 12, 14) slipped sts along the other side of the Heel Flap, k6 (7, 8, 9) sts from Needle 1.

PM for new beg of round at center of the Heel. *54 (60, 70, 78) sts total; 16 (18, 21, 24) sts each on Needles 1 and 3; 22 (24, 28, 30) instep sts on Needle 2*

Work Gusset decreases as follows:

Round 1 (dec): On Needle 1, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on Needle 2, work St st as set; on Needle 3, k1, ssk, k to end. *2 sts dec*

Round 2: Knit.

Rep Rounds 1 and 2 a further 4 (5, 6, 8) times. *44 (48, 56, 60) sts; 11 (12, 14, 15) sts each on Needles 1 and 3; 22 (24, 28, 30) instep sts on Needle 2*

for magic loop ONLY

Setup round: Using Needle 1, sl1, k11 (13, 15, 17) Heel sts, pick up and k1 st in each of the 9 (10, 12, 14) slipped sts along the side of the Heel Flap, pick up and k1 st between the Heel Flap and instep to close the gap, k across 11 (12, 14, 15) held instep sts; using Needle 2, k across 11 (12, 14, 15) held instep sts, pick up and k1 st between the Heel Flap and instep to close the gap, pick up and k1 st in each of the 9 (10, 12, 14) slipped sts along the other side of the Heel Flap, k6 (7, 8, 9) sts from Needle 1. PM for new beg of round at center of the Heel. *54 (60, 70, 78) sts total; 27 (30, 35, 39) on each needle*

Work Gusset decreases as follows:

Round 1 (Dec setup): On Needle 1, k14 (16, 19, 22), k2tog, PM, k to end; on Needle 2, k11 (12, 14, 15), PM, ssk, k to end. *52 (58, 68, 76) sts*

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3 (Dec round): On Needle 1, k to 2 sts before marker, k2tog, SM, k to end; on Needle 2, k to marker, SM, ssk, k to end. *2 sts dec*

Round 4: Knit.

Rep Rounds 3 and 4 a further 3 (4, 5, 7) times. *44 (48, 56, 60) sts total; 22 (24, 28, 30) on each needle*

BOTH methods again foot

Removing markers as you come to them, work St st in the round (knit every round) until Foot measures 5.5 (6.5, 7, 7.5) cm / 2¼ (2½, 2¾, 3)" less than total length desired.

toe for dpns ONLY

Next round: Break Yarn B, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail. Join Yarn A, k to end.

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2 (Dec round): On Needle 1, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on Needle 2, k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on Needle 3, k1, ssk, k to end. *4 sts dec*

Round 3: Knit.

Rep Rounds 2 and 3 a further 4 (5, 6, 7) times. *24 (24, 28, 28) sts*

Rep Round 2 only a further 4 times. *8 (8, 12, 12) sts* K2 (2, 3, 3) sts from Needle 1 onto the end of Needle 3. *4 (4, 6, 6) sts each on 2 needles*

for magic loop ONLY

K11 (12, 14, 15), PM for new beg of round. Adjust sts so that 22 (24, 28, 30) instep sts are on Needle 1 and 22 (24, 28, 30) sole sts are on Needle 2. As you begin the next round, you will slip beg of round marker first before knitting across the sts on Needle 1, meaning beg of round marker will sit on the cord between needles. This ensures sts are divided evenly before beg decreases.

Next round: Break Yarn B, leaving a 15 cm / 6" tail. Join Yarn A, k to end.

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2 (Dec round): On Needle 1, *k1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; rep from * once on Needle 2. *4 sts dec*

Round 3: Knit.

Rep Rounds 2 and 3 a further 4 (5, 6, 7) times. *24 (24, 28, 28) sts*

Rep Round 2 only 4 times. *8 (8, 12, 12) sts*

Ensure you have 4 (4, 6, 6) sts on each needle.

FINISHING

Graft the Toe sts using Kitchener stitch (see this page) OR thread yarn through rem sts and pull to tighten.

Weave in ends and block to measurements.

a. Foot circumference: 18.5 (20.5, 23.5, 25.5) cm / 7¼ (8, 9¼, 10)"

b. Foot length: Adjustable (see Measuring Feet at right)

measuring feet

1. To work out the length of your foot, measure from your heel to the tip of your longest toe.

2. The magic of socks is that you can try them on as you go to make sure the length is correct. Carefully ease them onto your foot and measure from your toe to ensure 5.5 (6.5, 7, 7.5) cm / 2¼ (2½, 2¾, 3)" is left to knit your toe decreases.

grafting (aka kitchener stitch)

1. Thread a tapestry needle with the working yarn or other length of yarn.

2. Arrange your needles so they are parallel, with stitches at the tips and the wrong sides facing. Insert the tapestry needle purlwise into the first stitch on your front needle and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on your front needle.

3. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on your back needle. Pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on your back needle.

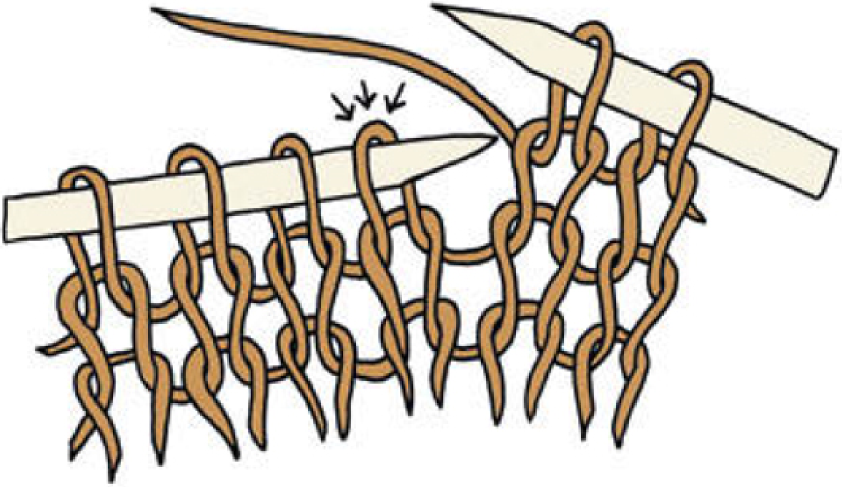
4. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on your front needle.

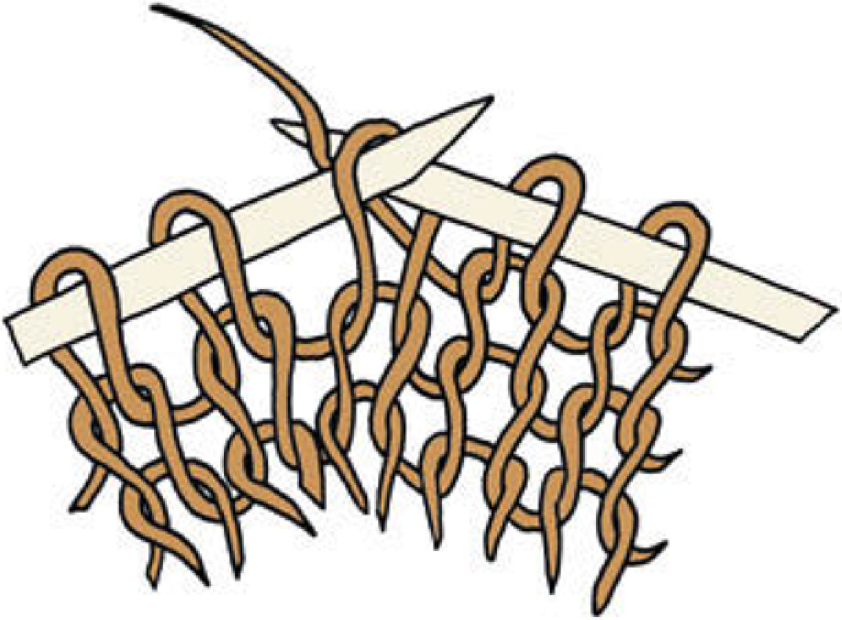
5. Slip this stitch off the front needle. Enter the next stitch purlwise and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the front needle.

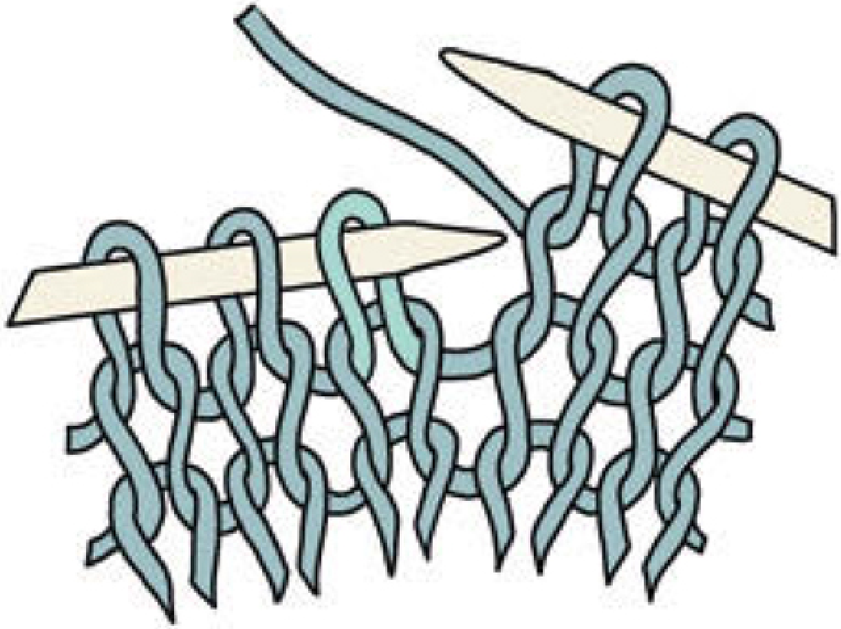
6. Insert the tapestry needle purlwise into the first stitch on the back needle.

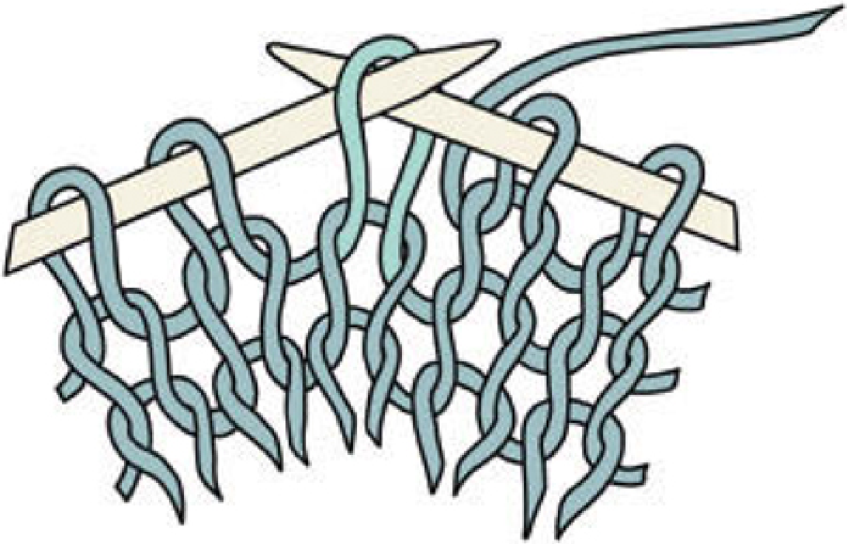
7. Slip this stitch off your back needle. Enter the next stitch knitwise and pull the yarn through, leaving this stitch on your back needle.

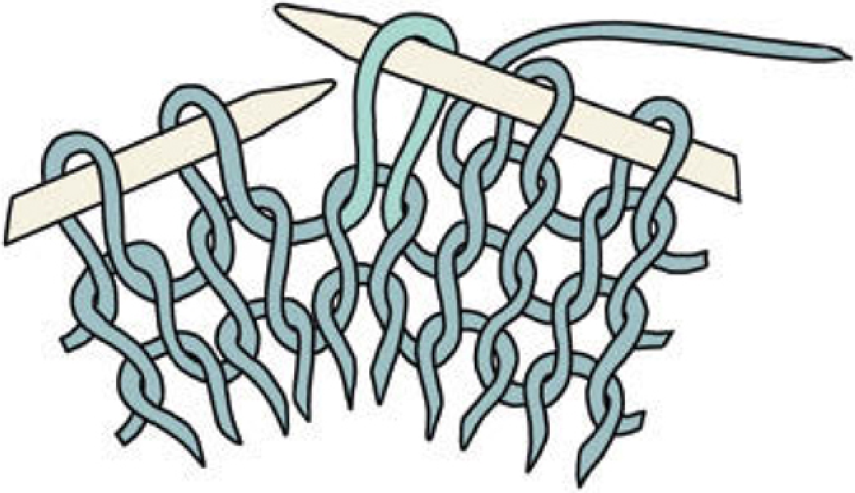
8. Repeat steps 4–7, weaving stitches together and adjusting your tension as you go. Continue until you have one stitch left on each needle. To finish, insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the stitch on your front needle and slip it off. Then insert the tapestry needle purlwise into the stitch on your back needle and slip off. Adjust the tension and weave in the ends.

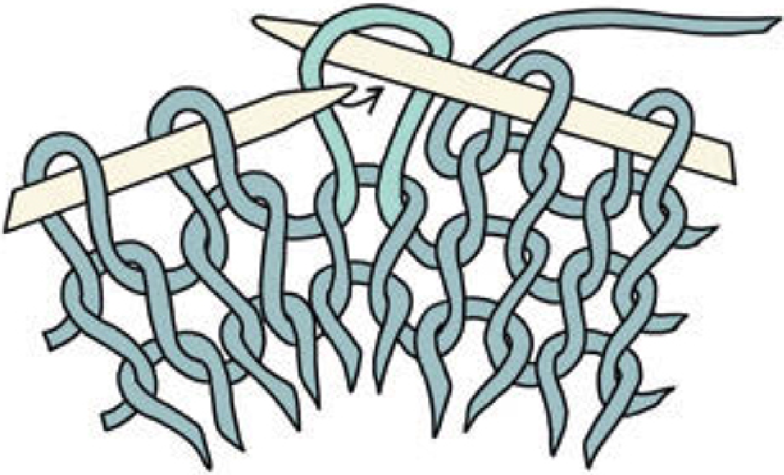


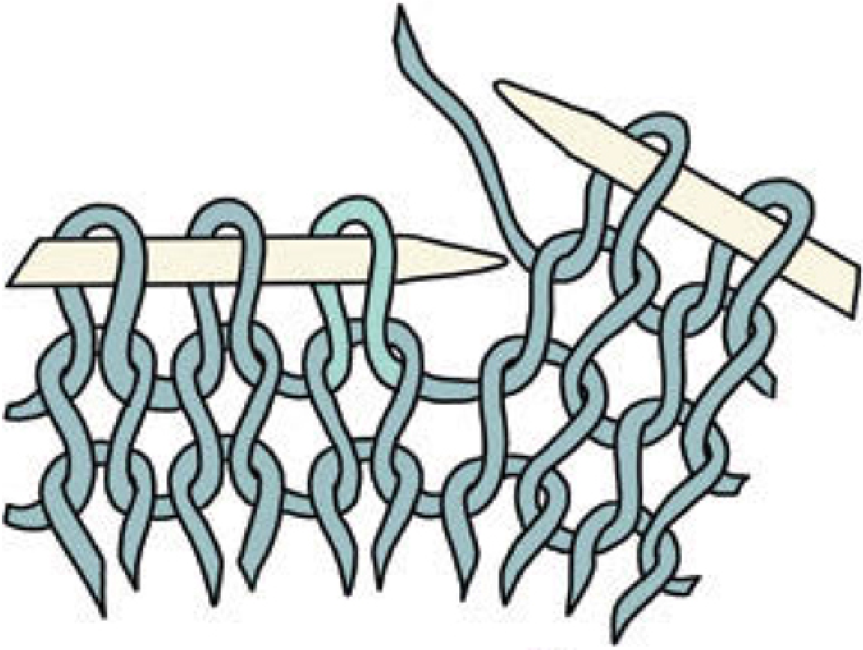


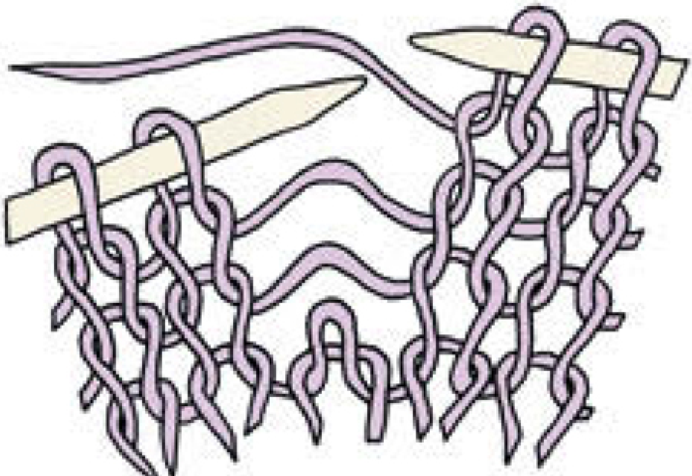


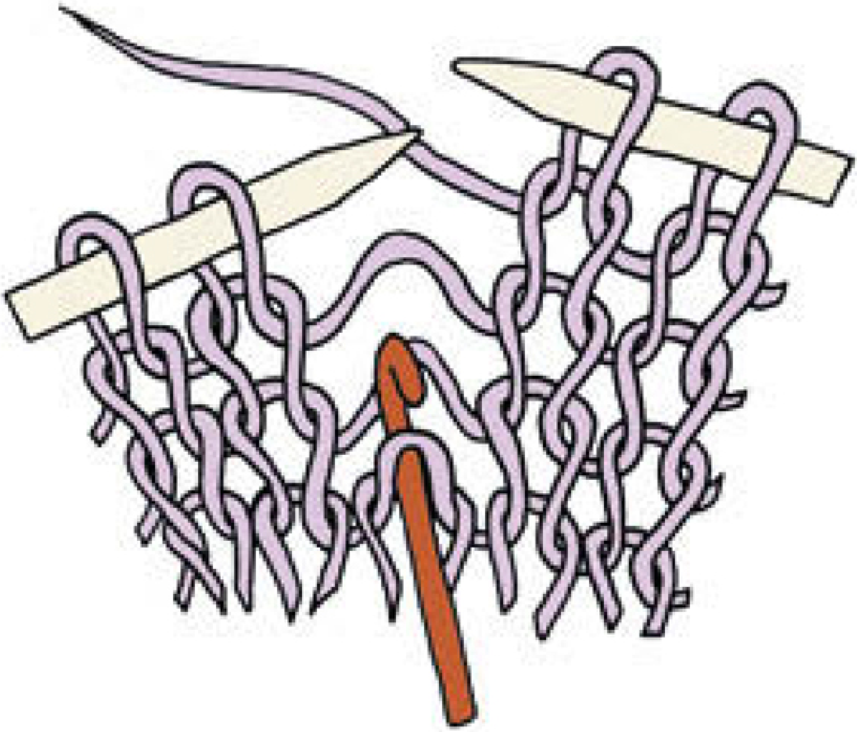


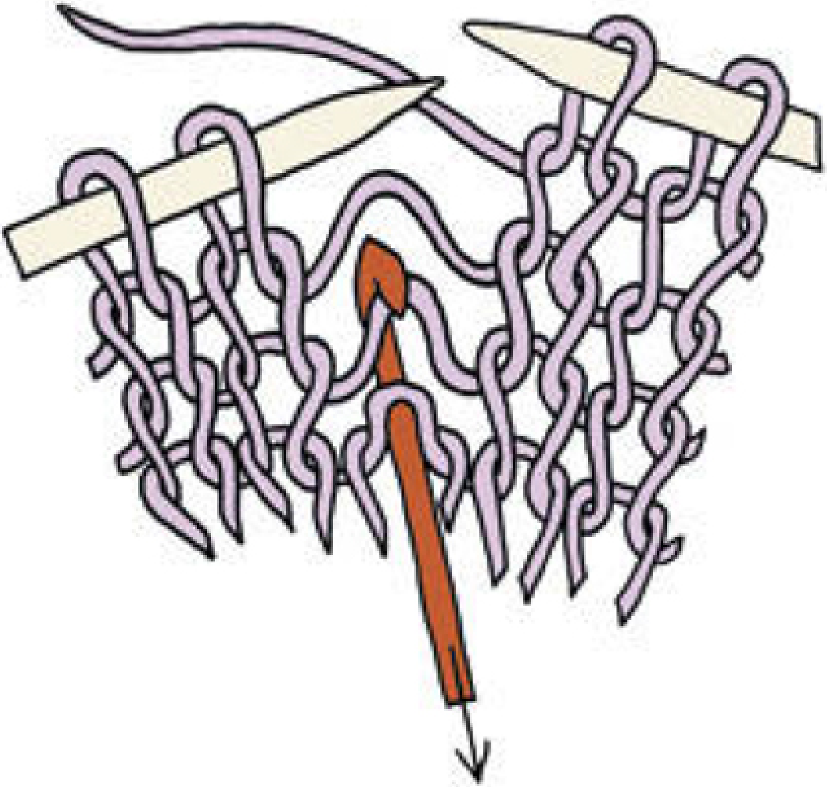


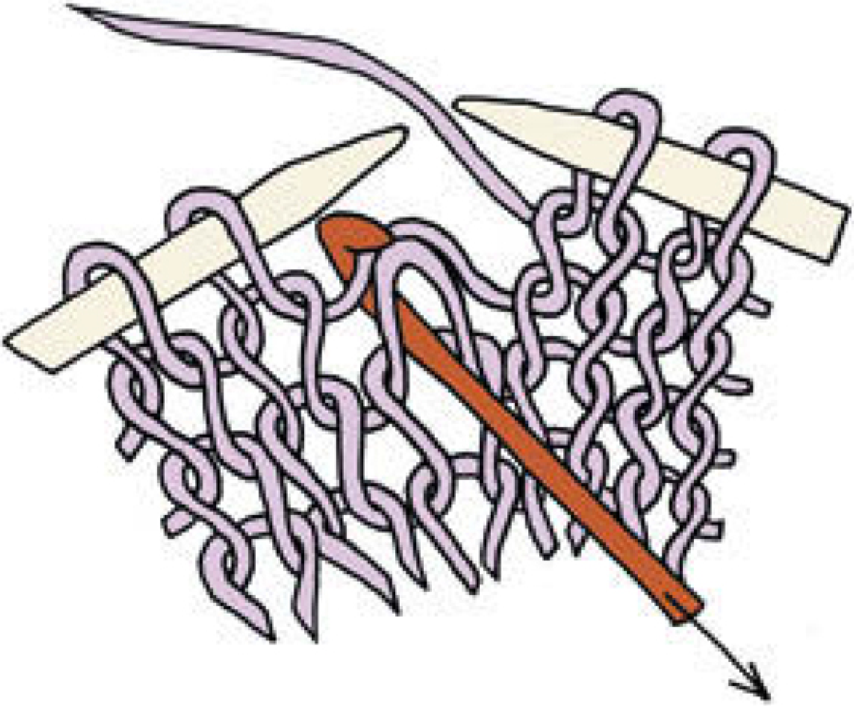


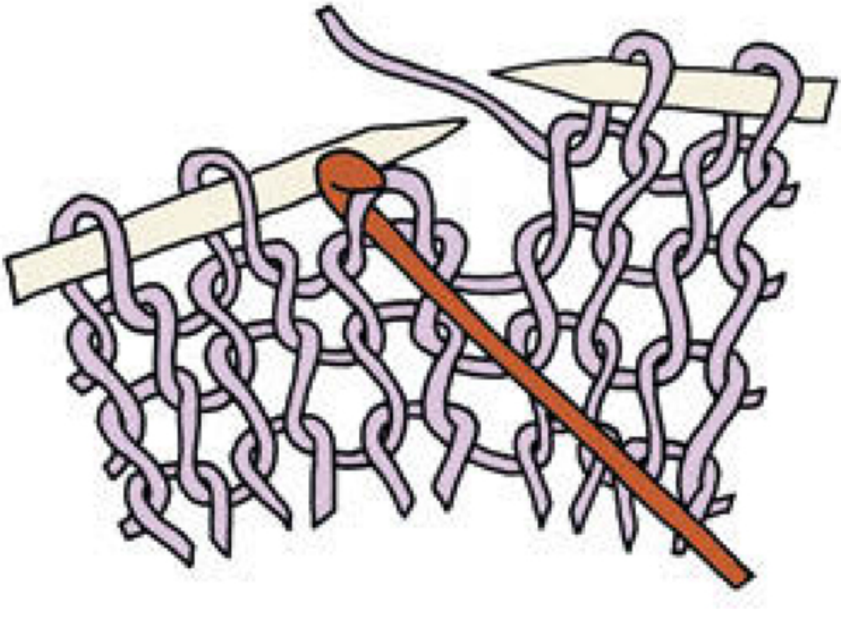


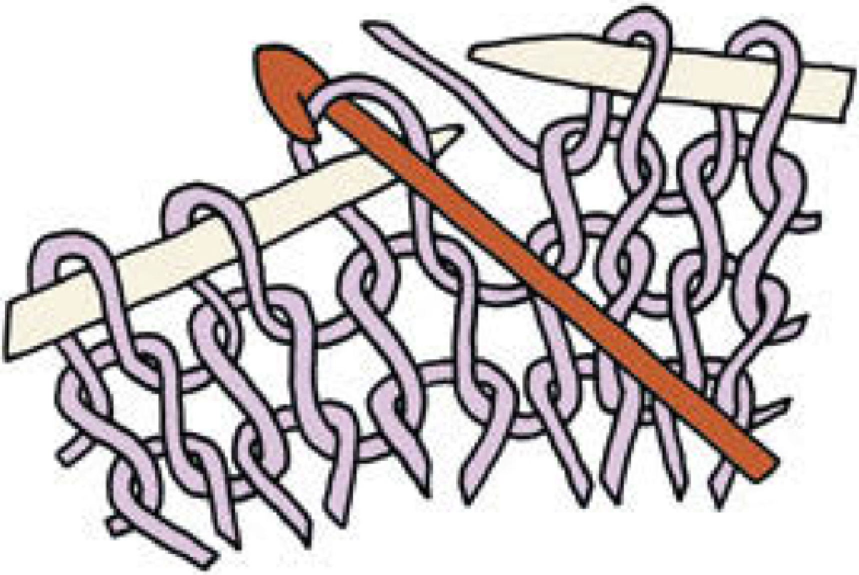


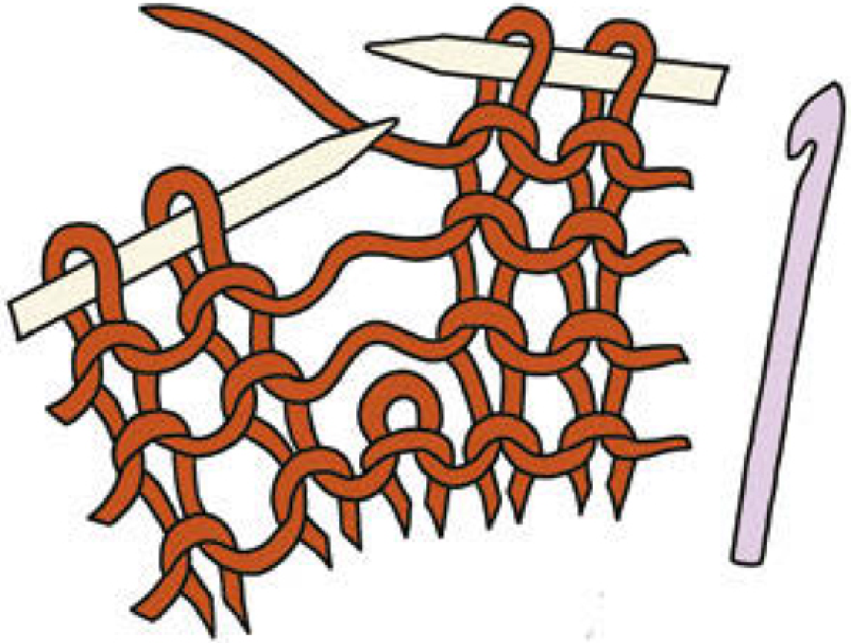


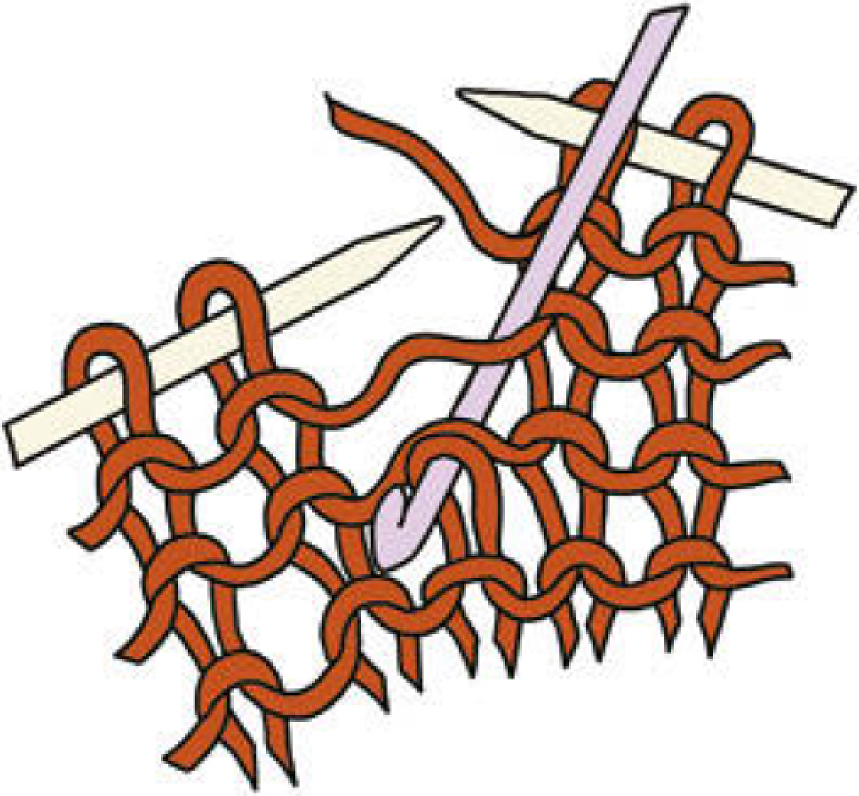


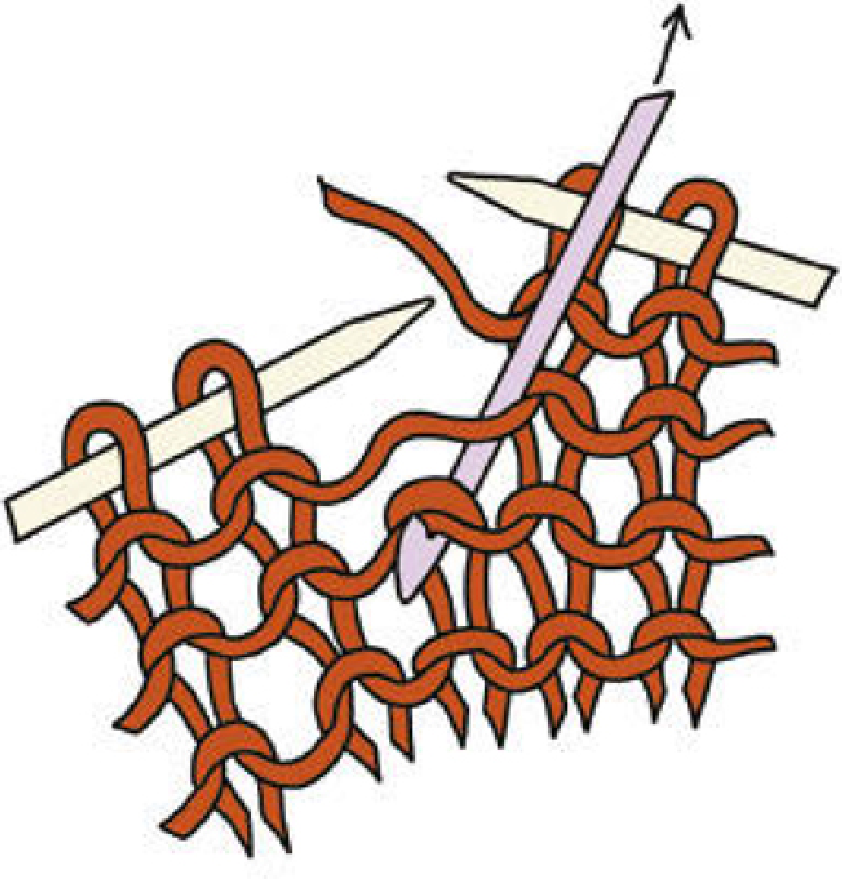


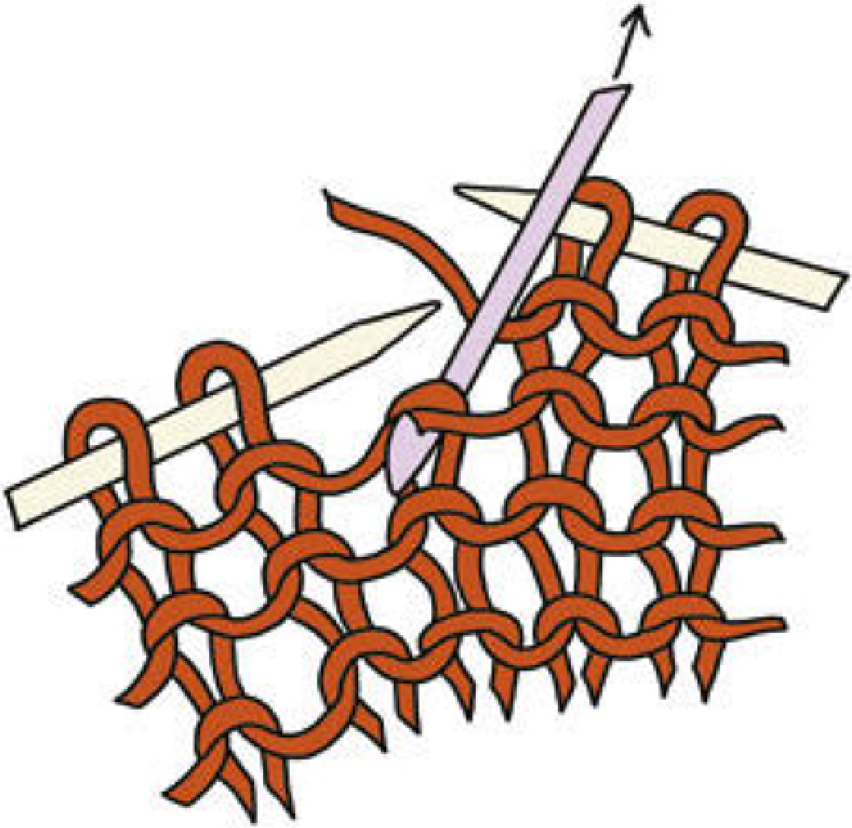


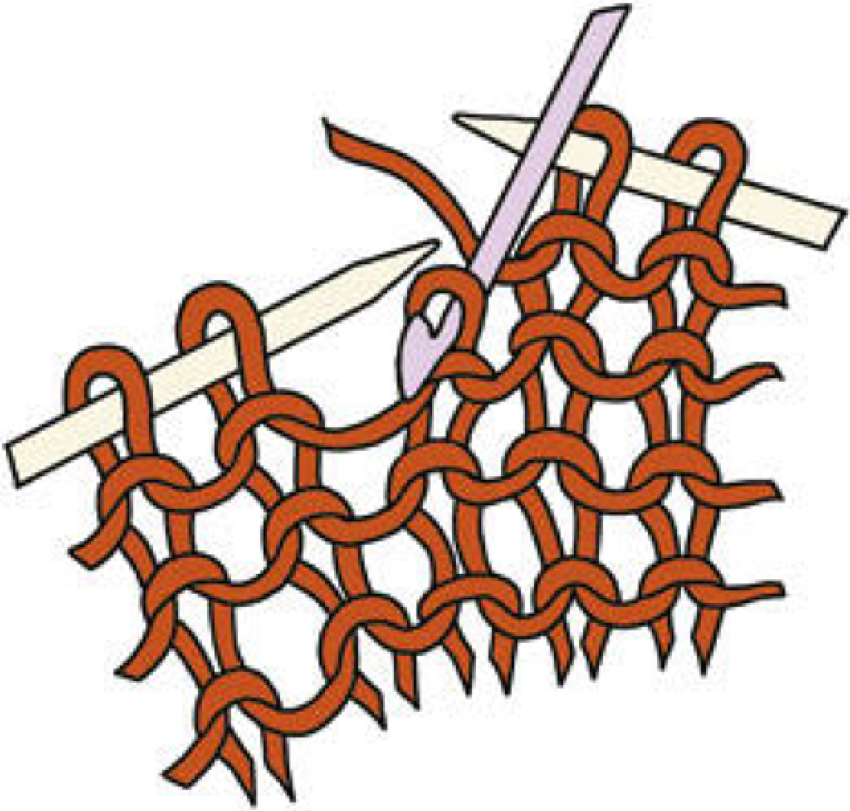


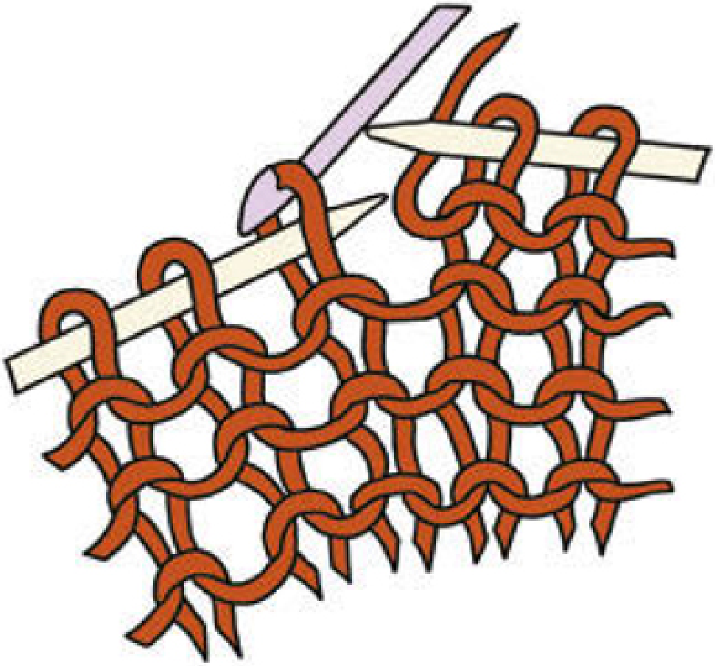


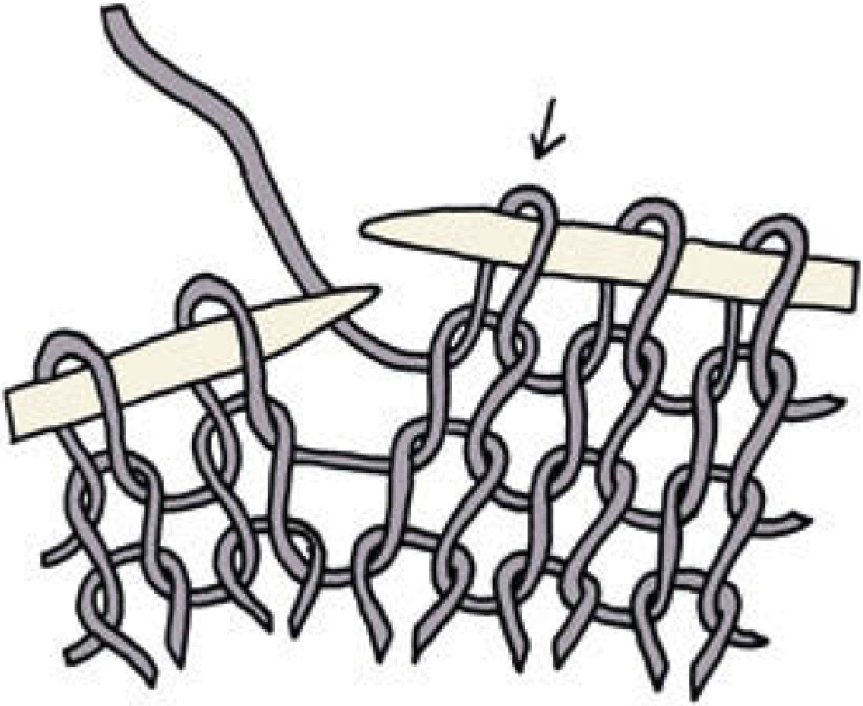


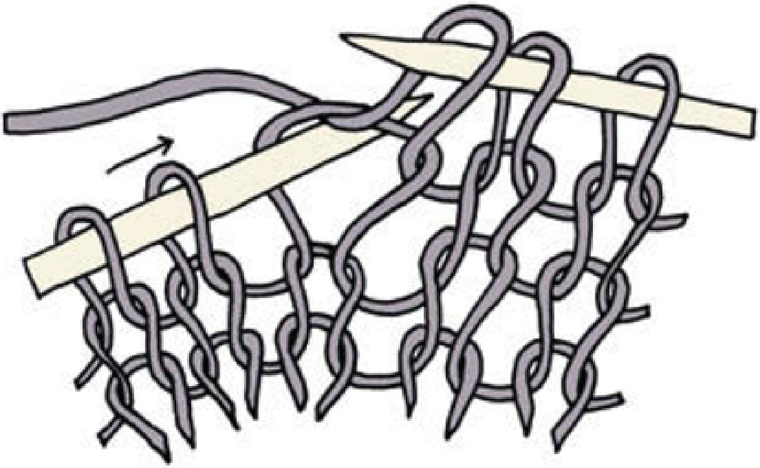


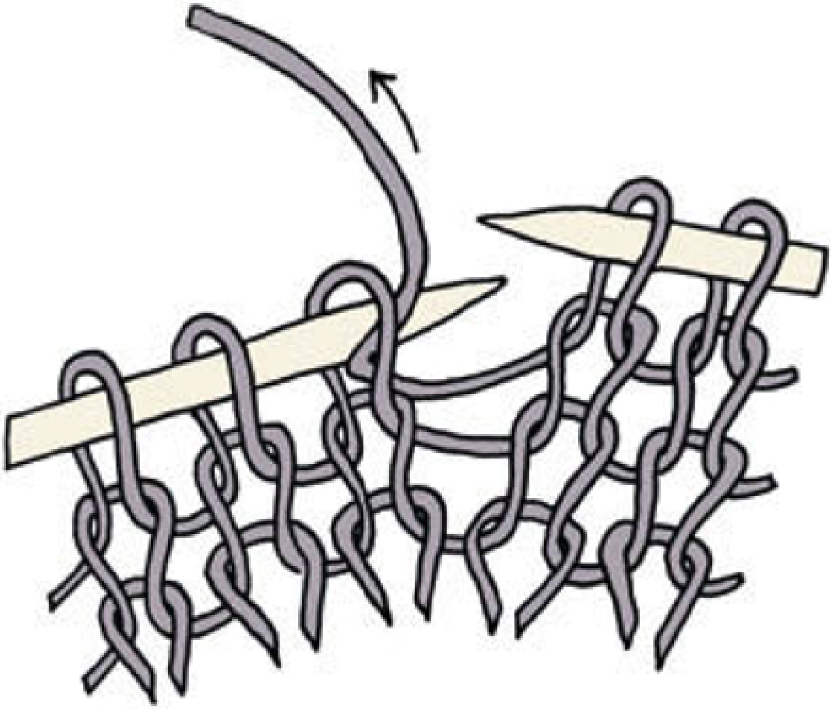












PART 3

FIXING MISTAKES & LOVING YOUR

MAKES

One thing that we can guarantee in your knitting journey is that every project will involve you making a mistake. We would be shocked to hear about even a simple scarf that didn’t need a stitch or two fixed at some point. So, no need to let a dropped stitch or a misplaced purl get you down.

Mistakes aren’t unique to beginners; even the most experienced knitters make mistakes. One of the wisest teachers we know likes to tell her students that the sign of a great knitter is not that they never make mistakes but that they can fix all their mistakes. The more mistakes you make, the better you’ll get at fixing them.

TWISTED STITCHES

A common mistake beginners often run into is twisting stitches. This means that the left "leg" of your stitch is oriented to the front of your needle. Unless specifically noted, the *right* leg of your stitch should be oriented to the front of your needle. Twisted stitches often look a little wonky and are tighter than correctly oriented stitches, making them more difficult to knit. If you find that every single one of your stitches is twisted, it's very likely that you are wrapping your working yarn around the needle in the wrong direction. The yarn should always be wrapped counterclockwise. If it looks like you've just twisted a stitch or two, follow these steps to fix them.

fixing twisted stitches: quick method

1. Identify the twisted stitch (shown here with the arrows).

2. Insert your right-hand needle into the back of the stitch and knit it. The stitch is now untwisted.

fixing twisted stitches: slow and steady method

1. Identify the twisted stitch (shown here as lighter color).

2. Insert your right-hand needle into the back of the stitch.

3. Slip your left-hand needle out of the stitch so that it now sits on your right-hand needle.

4. Return the stitch to the correct position on your left-hand needle by inserting the left-hand needle into the center of the stitch, below the right-hand needle, following the arrow.

5. Slip your right-hand needle out—the stitch now sits in the correct position on the left-hand needle.

DROPPED STITCHES

One of the most common mistakes that beginners make is dropping a stitch. This means that a stitch falls off your needle and unravels a bit. The more slippery your yarn is, the more likely it is to drop and unravel, which is why we usually recommend wool to beginners. Even wool stitches can drop, though, so here’s what you need to do if (or, more likely, when) this happens to you.

how to pick up a dropped knit stitch

1. Here a stitch has dropped two rows. Each strand above the dropped loop is a row. To rescue it, use a crochet hook roughly the same size as the needles you are knitting with.

2. Insert the crochet hook into the dropped stitch from front to back.

3. Hook the first strand above the dropped stitch, then draw it through the loop on the crochet hook from back to front.

4. Repeat step 3 for the second strand.

5. Here the two strands have been picked up and the dropped stitch has been rescued.

6. To finish, place the stitch onto your left-hand needle, ensuring the stitch is not twisted. Remove the crochet hook.

how to pick up a dropped purl stitch

1. Here a stitch has dropped two rows. Each strand above the dropped loop is a row. To rescue it, use a crochet hook roughly the same size as the needles you are knitting with.

2. Insert the crochet hook into the dropped stitch from back to front.

3. Gently lift the dropped stitch and catch the first strand above it, then draw the strand through the loop on the hook from front to back.

4. Repeat step 3 for the second strand.

5. Here the two strands have been picked up and the dropped stitch has been rescued.

6. To finish, place the stitch back onto your left-hand needle, ensuring the stitch is not twisted. Remove the crochet hook.

TINKING

You might find yourself happily knitting along when you notice a mistake that's been made a few stitches or even many rows back. Although this can be a common problem for beginners, it's not uncommon for experienced knitters either. Luckily, it doesn't mean all is lost. When a mistake has been made on your previous stitch, or just a few stitches back, you can simply unpick those stitches and rework them. Knitters like to call this *tinking* because "tink" is "knit" spelled backward, and using this technique is basically reversing the knitting process. These drawings show tinking worked on knit stitches, but you can also unpick purl stitches in the same way.

unpicking stitches one stitch at a time (aka tinking)

1. If you have made a mistake and just need to unpick (undo) a few stitches, this is a good way to do it. The arrow indicates which stitch is going to be unpicked.

2. Insert your left-hand needle into the stitch below the one you have just knit, from front to back as shown.

3. As you slide this stitch back onto your left-hand needle, allow the yarn to drop out of it.

FROGGING

Sometimes you don’t see a mistake until several rows later, and going all the way back to the point where the mistake was made is just what you have to do. Does it mean you might have to undo several hours’ worth of knitting to fix it? Yes. But it also means more quality time with your yarn.

Cue up your favorite show and enjoy the satisfaction of getting those stitches right. Knitters like to call the process of removing several rows of stitches *frogging*. The name comes from the fact that we say we are “ripping back” our stitches. We “rip it, rip it”—sounds like *ribbit*, eh? Believe it or not, you can just whisk your needles out of your stitches and gently pull the yarn out, row by row. When you get to the mistake row, you can carefully unpick each stitch one by one, replacing them on the needle as you go.

LOVING STUFF

caring for your knits

You learned to knit! You knit a scarf, a sock, a sweater, whatever. And you wore it! You may have even garnered a few compliments or elicited a “Could you knit me a . . .” or two. Now that your knits have been out on the town, they’ll need some TLC at home. Here are a few of our tips for keeping them shipshape for years to come.

washing

Some knits, like a cowl or mittens, may not need frequent washing. But even for the least sweaty of your knits, there’s always the chance of a spilled cup of hot chocolate, or a bus driving through a dirty puddle at just the wrong moment. For handknits, washing is essentially the same process as blocking (described in Part 1). Even when yarn is marketed as being “superwash,” meaning it is machine washable, we are fans of hand-washing. Many washing machines have knitwear cycles, but we’ve seen far too many heartbreaking accidents to recommend relying on this. Warm water, strong detergents, and the normal friction of the washing barrel can easily shrink or—worse—felt your handknit. We can’t bear to think of you losing your beautiful knit that took so many hours to make, so why chance it? *

To recap, washing or blocking your knits involves giving them a lukewarm, sudsy bath using a no-rinse wool wash, gently squeezing out the water, and laying the piece flat to dry, pinning if necessary to get it to the specified measurements. Most yarn shops sell a no-rinse wool wash. If you can’t get to a shop or find there are too many choices, then gentle Eucalan is a great brand to start with.

storing

Your handknits are best kept folded in a drawer. Much as we’d love to see a beautiful lineup of sweaters in our wardrobes, hangers are really not their friends. Hangers will put an unnecessary strain on the shoulders of garments and cause the weight of the yarn to stretch the entire piece.

Many knitters are waging a constant battle with moths. If you live in a region rife with moths, consider using a wool wash with lavender, or investing in sachets meant to deter moths. Moths especially love knitwear that the wearer has sweat into; all the more reason to keep your knits nice and wash them now and again. If you have a very serious moth problem, you may want to store your knits (and even your yarn) in airtight plastic bags or containers.

de-pilling

Over time, you may notice little bobbly pills appearing on your handknits, especially in places where there is extra friction, like on the undersides of sleeves, where your arms rub against your body. The softer your yarn is, the more likely pills will happen. Don’t stress, though: Your sweater isn’t ruined; it just needs some love. There are a number of handy tools you can use to remove the pills. Battery-operated pill shavers are great, as are tools like the Gleener, which are marketed specifically to handknitters. In a pinch, a razor will do the trick; just be careful!

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*There are exceptions to our hand-wash-only rule: for example, knits made of cotton or linen, which can often benefit from a good machine wash.

PART 4

WHERE TO NEXT?

This book was designed to give you a good grounding in the world of knitting. We hope that you've made a number of successful projects that you and your loved ones enjoy wearing. The more you knit, the better you'll get. We find that almost every new project builds your skills and confidence as a knitter, regardless of how long you've been knitting. When you're ready to branch out from the projects in this book, and even before, we highly recommend that you join us and over eight million other knitters on the knitting social network Ravelry (ravelry.com). It is so much more than just a social network; it is a library and database of thousands of knitting patterns, as well as having forums where knitters (and crocheters and weavers) can ask questions, chat, and share their own projects with others who will appreciate them.

ready, set, go!

So how do you decide what to knit next? You might see something in a shop you'd like to try yourself, or perhaps you'll be inspired to try something you've spotted in a knitting magazine. Whatever gets you going, you might want to gauge how much of a challenge you're up for with your next project. As we mentioned before, Ravelry is an excellent resource to explore knitting patterns because other knitters have already rated the pattern based on difficulty and they often share tips to make things easier. This will help you get a feel for whether it's the right project for you.

Often, whether or not you're ready to knit something depends on what kind of personality you have. If you see an intricately cabled sweater and are up for the challenge, we won't stop you! But if you're more of a "slow and steady wins the race" type, there's no shame in taking baby steps with each new project. Even making the same thing a few times can teach you a lot, so just go with what feels comfortable for you.

No matter where your knitting takes you next, keep in mind that it's meant to be fun. Like most skills worth acquiring, knitting comes with challenges. If ever you feel stuck or discouraged, go to your local shop's knit night, sign up for a class, meet a knitting friend, or go online for support, encouragement, and abundant good knitting vibes. Always remember our ultimate Top Tip: The beauty of knitting is that you can unravel and start fresh. Your gentle yarn will be patient and happy to see you.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg	Begin(s)/Beginning
dec	Decrease
DPN(s)	Double-pointed needle(s)
foll	Follow(s)/Following
inc	Increase
k	Knit
kwise	Knitwise: as if to knit
k2tog	Knit two stitches together
M1L	Make 1 Left: Pick up the strand between the two needles from front to back with the tip of the left-hand needle, then knit into the back of this stitch
M1R	Make 1 Right: Pick up the strand between the two needles from back to front with the tip of the left-hand needle, then knit into the front of this stitch
patt	Pattern
PM	Place marker
p	Purl
pwise	Purlwise: as if to purl
p2tog	Purl two stitches together
rem	Remain(s)/Remaining
rep	Repeat
RS	Right side of fabric
sl	Slip
ssk	Slip, slip, knit: Slip two stitches knitwise one at a time, then knit together through the back loops
SM	Slip marker
st(s)	Stitch(es)
St st	Stockinette (stocking) stitch: knit on RS rows, purl on WS rows
tog	Together
wyib	With yarn held in back of work
wyif	With yarn held in front of work
WS	Wrong side of fabric
yo	Yarn over needle and into working position

Find more at pompommag.com/tutorials

WEIGHING UP THE (YARNY) OPTIONS

See below for frequently used names for yarn weights and their overseas equivalents—a handy guide when substituting yarns.

UK	US	Recommended Needle Size
2-Ply	Laceweight	1.5–2.25mm / US 0–1
4-Ply	Fingering	2.25–3.25mm / US 1–3
4-Ply	Sock Fingering	2.25–3.25mm / US 1–3
In between Heavy 4-Ply & Light DK	Sport	3.25–3.75mm / US 3–5
DK	Light Worsted	3.75–4.5mm / US 5–7
Aran	Worsted	4.5–5.5mm / US 7–9
Chunky	Bulky	5.5–8mm / US 9–11
Super Chunky	Super Bulky	8mm+ / US 11+

SUBSTITUTING YARNS

There are many reasons to try a different yarn than the one called for in the pattern: Geography, color, and fiber are all good reasons to deviate from what's prescribed. Here's our handy guide to changing things up.

1. Use the meter per gram rule, also known as the yard per ounce rule. Have a look at your pattern and see how many meters there are in the ball. As an example, there might be 80 meters / 87½ yds per 50-gram / 1.75-oz ball. When choosing a substitute, go for a yarn that has a very similar number of meters per gram, or yards per ounce, as the case may be.

2. Think about usage. It's unlikely that you'll want cotton mittens, because cotton will stretch and won't keep you very warm. So think about where and how your knitted item will be used. If you're knitting a sweater for your friend in Norway, it's a good idea to use warming wool. If you're making a cardigan for your cousin who lives in Florida, you could consider a cotton blend.

3. Give thought to drape and weight. The easiest thing to do when substituting yarns is to stick to the same fiber content as the original. You'll find fiber content information on the yarn label. Wool usually has springy properties, whereas an alpaca and silk blend will usually be drapey and can stretch with wear. This can be beautiful when the pattern is designed to accommodate drape. But if you swap alpaca for wool in a pattern that doesn't accommodate it, you might find yourself with a cardigan much longer than you intended it to be after a few wears. Eventually, you will become more familiar with how different fibers behave, but if you want to play it safe for now, go with the recommended fiber to avoid unpleasant surprises.

KNITTER LINGO

Here are phrases and abbreviations you can start using at your LYS and on Ravelry like a pro.

FO

Finished Object

Frog

To undo large portions (or the entirety) of your work, so named because in order to undo it, you have to “rip it” back, and if you’re undoing a lot of work you “rip it, rip it, rip it,” which sounds like "ribbit" (the noise that frogs make).

KAL

Knit-along. When a group of knitters knit the same project at the same time as each other and share their progress. Often hosted on Ravelry or via social media.

Lifeline

Waste yarn threaded through a row of stitches so that if any mistakes are made, it’s easy to undo the work to that point.

LYS

Local Yarn Shop / Store

Second Sock Syndrome

Knitting one sock and then never quite getting around to finishing the second one.

Startitis

Beginning several projects in quick succession but not making progress on them before starting the next.

Stash

Yarn awaiting a future project.

Tink

Tink is “knit” spelled backward. It refers to undoing stitches by reversing the knitting motion—see this page for unpicking stitches one stitch at a time, which is the same thing.

UFO
Unfinished Object

WIP
Work in Progress

Yarn Barf
A clump of yarn that comes out of a new ball of yarn when you pull from the center of the ball.

Yarn Chicken
When you are coming to the end of a project and running out of yarn, you are playing yarn chicken. Will the knitter win, or will the yarn run out?

YARN SUPPORT

Here’s a handy list of the yarns we’ve used in this book and where to get them. Can’t find one of these yarns near you? Have a look at our substitutions guide on this page for help choosing an alternative.

Bread & Butter Yarn Co.
Everyday
breadandbutteryarn.com

BC Garn
Semilla Grosso
bcgarn.dk

Berroco
Ultra Wool Chunky
berroco.com

CoopKnits
Socks Yeah! DK
coopknits.co.uk

De Rerum Natura
Gilliatt
dererumnatura.fr

The Farmer’s Daughter Fibers x Spincycle Yarns
Spinster’s Daughter Worsted
thefarmersdaughterfibers.com
spincycleyarns.com

Hobbii
Pom Pom x Hobbii Garland
hobbii.com

John Arbon Textiles
Knit by Numbers DK
jarbon.com

Julie Asselin

Nurtured
julie-asselin.com

Kelbourne Woolens

Germantown
kelbournewoolens.com

Malabrigo

Chunky
malabrigoyarn.com

Manos del Uruguay

Sami
manos.uy

Purl Soho

Yonder
purlsoho.com

Retrosaria

Rosa Pomar Beiroa
retrosaria.rosapomar.com

Ritual Dyes

Priestess
ritualdyes.com

The Uncommon Thread

Merino DK
theuncommonthread.co.uk

The Wandering Flock

DK
thewanderingflock.com

West Wool

Tandem
westwool.com

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To be able to write a book that welcomes new knitters into our woolly world is such an honor. We'd like to thank you for buying this book. We hope that knitting brings as much joy to your lives as it has to ours.

INDEX OF SEARCHABLE TERMS

A

abbreviations

B

backward loop cast-on
binding off
  regular bind-off
  three-needle bind-off
binding off in pattern
blocking
bottom up
brackets
broken rib

C

cables
caring for your knits
casting on
  backward loop cast-on
  knitted cast-on
  long-tail cast-on
circular needles
changing color
charts
Continental method

D

decreasing
  left-leaning decrease (ssk)
  right-leaning decrease (k2tog)
  purl two together (p2tog)
de-pilling
dropped stitches
double-pointed needles (DPNs)

E

ease

English method

F

fixing mistakes
frogging

G

garter stitch
gauge
grafting

H

holding the yarn

I

increasing
  make one left (M1L)
  make one right (M1R)
  yarn overs

J

joining a new yarn

K

Kitchener stitch
knit stitch
knitted cast-on
knitting in the round
knitting needles

L

lace
long-tail cast-on

M

Magic Loop
mattress stitch
measuring a swatch
moss stitch

N
needles
negative ease

P
picking (technique)
picking up stitches
pom poms
positive ease
purl stitch
putting stitches on hold

R
Ravelry.com
reading from charts
reading a pattern
recognizing stitches
repeats
ribbing
right side

S
seaming
seed stitch
short rows
skein
slipknot
slipping stitches
stitch markers
stockinette stitch
stocking stitch
supplies
swatching

T
tension
threading yarn through
three-needle bind-off
throwing (technique)
tinking
tools
turning a heel
twisted stitches

U
unpicking stitches

W
washing
weaving in ends
wool
wrong side

Y
yarn
yarn overs
yarn substitution

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This newly revised edition of **KNIT HOW** is friendly and easy to use: It now includes 18 knitting patterns, along with step-by-step instructions created especially for beginners, plus tips to keep you on the path to knitting success. Chapters guide you from those first shaky stitches to knitting a host of cute projects—from scarves, cowls, hats, and fingerless mitts that knit up fast, to easy socks and sweaters to stitch and show off.